

## MEDIA + DIANA'S DEATH: REPORTING OR DISTORTING?



## THE INTERVIEW GIFT WRAPPED: SARAH BRIGHTMAN

## 24-PAGE SPORT PULL-OUT COULTHARD WINS ITALIAN GRAND PRIX

# MPs back Earl's call to liberate Princes

Steve Boggan  
Fran Abrams  
and Jojo Moyes

Criticism of the Royal Family continued among mourners at Kensington Palace yesterday as politicians and the public backed Earl Spencer's insistence that Princes William and Harry should not be brought up solely by the Windsors.

On a day when Paddy Ashdown, leader of the Liberal Democrats, agreed that the population was behaving more like citizens than subjects, there was a growing feeling that the boys had become the People's Princes.

Tony Blair kept a long-standing appointment for lunch with the Queen at Balmoral which was followed by an audience during which they were certain to have discussed the role of the monarchy into the millennium.

Earlier the Prime Minister ruled out a privacy law, but called on newspaper editors to exercise more restraint in their pursuit of celebrities. He described criticism of the royals as "unfair".

The long-term implications of Earl Spencer's devastating attack on the Royal Family from the pulpit of Westminster Abbey on Saturday were still being assessed yesterday, but there was widespread support for his words.

During the tribute to his sister, Diana, Princess of Wales, he said: "We will not allow [the princes] to suffer the anguish that used regularly to drive you to tearful despair."

"And beyond that, on behalf of your mother and sisters, I pledge that we, your blood family, will do all we can to continue the imaginative way in which you were steering these two exceptional young men, so that their souls are not simply immersed by duty and tradition but can sing openly, as you planned."

As he delivered his attack, promising to encourage the boys in their royal role while giving them "experience of as many different aspects of life as possible", the Queen was sitting only yards away. The number of people who witnessed the rebuke on television was put at 2.5 billion.

The spread of applause from outside the Abbey to the mourners inside after he delivered his attack was described by Mr Ashdown yesterday as "an extraordinarily symbolic moment".

earned has altered in the last week. Asked whether he felt that people were behaving like citizens rather than subjects, he replied: "I think that's accurate. There is perhaps a new self-confidence about people expressing a view which is heard and responded to. And something deeper than that, I think they are telling us what kind of society they want."

"They want a compassionate society, a fairer society, a more decent society, a more just society. The reason why Diana touched the hearts of so many in Britain was because she expressed an equality about society that I think they believe their leaders ought to be able to deliver more effectively."

Labour and Tory MPs agreed that the style of Diana's parenting should be continued by the Spencer side of the family. "I totally approve of what Earl Spencer said," said Andrew Mackinlay, Labour MP for Thurrock. "It would serve to maintain the breath of fresh air which the Princess brought to the monarchy. It would help to blow away the cobwebs."

Michael Fabricant, Conservative MP for Lichfield, said: "It would be a shame if the influence of the Spencer family were lost. This is not only important for Princes William and Harry, but such an influence from outside like this would have the consequence of making the monarchy more attractive to the population at large and will safeguard it for the next century."

At Kensington Palace, Diana's former home, tributes and flowers continued to be laid. Many of those who came to praise her, however, were critical of the Windsors.

Harry Hovland, 36, from Leicester, said: "The only hope of saving the monarchy is to protect these boys from that dysfunctional family. People saw Diana's approach as the way forward for the royals and if they are one-tenth as sensitive and caring as she was, then they will be much more in touch with the feelings of the people."

Michelle Ellis, a hairdresser from Birmingham, said: "There was amazing support for Diana's brother after his speech. I think a royal upbringing would be much too regimented. I hope they get to spend lots of time with the Spencers and I hope that the Royal Family are not as stiff with the princes as they were with Diana."

However, not everyone agreed. Dr David Starkey, a constitutional historian at the London School of Economics, said the Earl's speech amounted to "calculated vengeance".

"The speech showed on the one hand a desire to look after the children, but on the other hand made them victims of a public tug of war," he said.

And the constitutional historian Lord Blake said: "I think he was wrong to imply that the princes had to be 'saved' from the Royal Family. There is nothing to suggest that Charles is not a caring and loving father."

After the event, pages 3, 4



Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, and the actor Sean Connery, travelling on the river Forth to Rosyth, Fife, yesterday, to announce the increase in employment at the former naval base. Photograph: David Moor/Newsflash

# Tax threat to home rule vote

Stephen Goodwin,  
Fran Abrams  
and Anthony Bevis

With less than 72 hours to go before Scots take their momentous decision on home rule, Tony Blair will today try to head off the nightmare possibility of a parliament neutered of tax-raising powers.

"A serious parliament should be given serious powers," the Prime Minister will say on the campaign trail in Scotland.

In the course of a day's hectic campaigning in Edinburgh and Glasgow he will also repeat Labour's election pledge that it will not raise income tax in the next five years.

Taxation remains the Achilles heel of Thursday's referendum. Although opinion polls show slightly more people in favour of giving the parliament the power to vary income tax than against it, the Tory-dominated "No" campaign will try to sway voters by asking how they feel about paying more tax than the English.

While a NOP poll for the Scottish Sunday Times showed 51 per cent prepared to vote for

tax-raising powers, an ICM poll for Scotland on Sunday showed just 45 per cent in favour. A 3-1 majority were in favour of a Scottish parliament, the first of two referendum questions.

With William Hague the Conservative party leader due in Scotland tomorrow, Mr Blair will also reject the Tory claim that devolution will lead to the break up of the United Kingdom. The Government's plans are about "stability not separation", he will say.

Mr Blair will try to present the parliament as "business-friendly", countering the fears of Edinburgh financial institutions and members of the CBI in Scotland that different tax rates and possible changes in business rates will hit investment and force firms to relocate south of the border.

Last night the Chancellor, the Scottish secretary and the defence secretary were all in Scotland pushing for a convincing "yes, yes" vote in Thursday's referendum.

Gordon Brown insisted that business was demonstrating its confidence in the future of Scotland with a devoted Par-

liament by continuing to make major investments.

The Tory constitutional affairs spokesman Michael Ancram warned that the Labour Government would have to ask "serious questions" if turn-out was low in Thursday's referendum north of the border.

There was also opposition to the proposals from Ian Dwyer, the Labour MP for Linlithgow and a long-time opponent of devolution. He warned that a "yes, yes" vote would drive talent south of the border and would mean that some companies might decide to relocate to England.

Meanwhile, the silent English majority was yesterday warned that it is paying a cash penalty for being without a regional power-base.

Richard Caborn, minister for the regions, said the eventual creation of English regional assemblies would help them catch up.

Scotland and Wales have caught up with the average European income since Labour set up the Scottish and Welsh development agencies 22 years ago. But most of the English re-

gions remain well below that level, with Cornwall, Merseyside and South Yorkshire running far behind.

If Labour won the next election, that would be followed by referendums for directly elected English regional assemblies along the lines of the one currently proposed for Wales.

Mr Caborn told *The Independent* that greater regional autonomy would be beneficial: "If your car is only firing ful-

ly off two cylinders, and the rest are not firing, then that is a recipe for division. If you've got all 10 cylinders firing at their maximum, then you'll have harmony, or unity."

Economic growth would accelerate throughout the country - including the English regions. "We can bake a much bigger cake than we're baking at the moment," Mr Caborn added.

English penalised, page 6

# Blair urged to update Britain's image abroad

David Walker

Catching the nation's introspective mood, Demos today publishes proposals for giving Great Britain a new image of itself fit for a new century.

The think tank's paper, sponsored by the Design Council, urges Tony Blair to lead the "rebranding" of Britain's identity, emphasising openness, non-conformity and creativity.

Margaret Thatcher's efforts at national re-creation were too nostalgic and too nationalist. Heritage should not be forgotten but Britain's military and imperial past should be laid to rest. The monarch should undertake a series of visits to places - such as China, Iran, Ireland and the Caribbean - where there is still bitterness about

Britain's past, apologising and "healing".

Practical suggestions offered by Demos - its director Geoff Mulgan now a member of the No 10 policy unit - include offering visitors coming off planes and ferries "morsels" of the new British cuisine.

Heathrow and the Port of Dover should be overhauled to provide visitors to Britain with a "stunning welcome".

British embassies should get rid of their Chippendale furniture, tiled diplomats and general stuffiness. Government agencies and business should promote the country as an innovative hub open to all-comers.

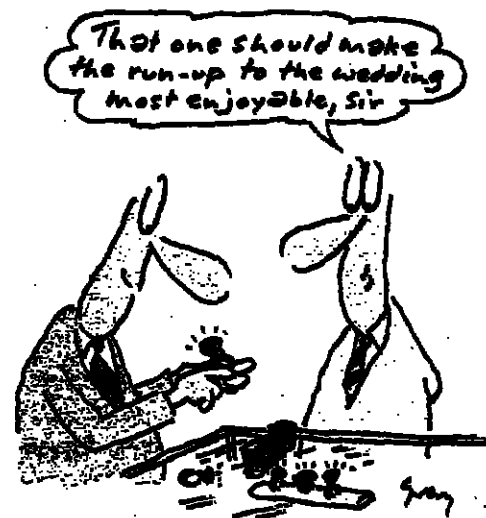
Britain, the report says, "will never again be a superpower or an empire. But its position as a major industrial and political

power has stabilised. It can never be a 'young country' in a literal sense, but is bursting with the energy and excitement that young countries enjoy."

A renaissance of British pride built on sense of Britain as an entrepot would help exports and increase tourism revenues.

The report's author, Mark Leonard, says Britain suffers from the misperceptions of foreigners. Tourists think the food is bad and the natives arrogant. Foreign firms fail to rate the creativity and success of British companies. British people themselves are too wedded to out of date stereotypes and the Government's efforts to sell Britain abroad consist too often of cardboard cut-outs of Beefeaters.

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## Getting hitched?

You desperately need a free copy of *Look Before You Leap*, the man's guide to buying an engagement ring.

Boodle & Dunthorne, the leading English jewellers, have packed it with helpful information, common sense, and some reasonably impartial advice.

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**QUICKY**  
Greer gave to Labour  
Ian Greer, the Westminster lobbyist at the centre of the Tory cash for questions scandal, was a big financial donor to the Labour party, according to a new report. Page 5

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## news

## significant shorts

## Blair refuses to rule out autumn reshuffle

Speculation on an autumn reshuffle was mounting last night after the Prime Minister refused to rule out such a move. Mr Blair said during an interview on the BBC's *Breakfast with Frost* programme that he would make the decision "at the appropriate time". But then, in an apparent hint that a reshuffle might be imminent, he added that ministers were aware of the situation.

"I am sure they know what the score is, which is that Prime Ministers have to do reshuffles from time to time, but these are decisions you have to take on the basis of what you believe to be the right thing," he said.

Fran Abrams

## Drugs slip in as Britain grieves

Customs officers have seized more than £2m worth of cannabis as smugglers took advantage of the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales, to bring the drugs into Britain.

Following several months of surveillance work, officers from HM Customs National Investigation Service pounced at the Thurrock service station on the M25 in Essex. NIS officers say that because Britain was so quiet, as the nation watched the emotional funeral service of the princess, it was difficult for them to carry out a surveillance operation. The drugs, weighing three quarters of a ton, are thought to have been imported from Holland. A further four people were arrested in Middlesbrough where a further £1m of drugs was found. Four people have been charged with drug smuggling, including a Dutch national. Two others, including a German man, are still being questioned. The four are due to appear before Uxbridge magistrates' court today.

## Uh oh ... Teletubbies hit the shops



BBC chiefs are expecting a Teletubbies bonanza this week as the first books and videos based on the cult BBC2 programme go on sale today.

Thousands of mothers across Britain are expected to snap up the *Here Come the Teletubbies* video and a clutch of paperbacks, including *The Magic Flag and Loo-Loo's Ball*. The most highly prized gifts will be the fluffy Teletubbies figures of Tinky Winky, Dipsy, Loo-Loo and Po (below). The BBC's commercial arm, BBC Worldwide, insists it is not cashing in on the show's popularity, saying the products are part of a long-term educational programme: 260 episodes of *Teletubbies* have so far been commissioned, to run until next autumn, and are aimed at pre-school children.

## Police officers save driver's life

Two police officers saved a driver's life by dragging his burning body from a blazing car in which two of his friends died.

The officers wrenched open the driver's door and pulled the young man to safety, then sprayed his body using a fire extinguisher from their patrol car, Essex police said. A back-seat passenger was thrown clear into the road but broke both legs after the driver lost control of the car, which hit a road support and burst into flames. Two people, a woman and a man both in their late teens, were killed in the accident near Kelvedon, Essex, early yesterday at a slip road running underneath the A12.

## Paedophile found hanged in jail

A paedophile serving a life sentence has been found hanged in his prison cell, the prison service said yesterday. Paul Jackson, 41, was convicted at Preston Crown Court in January 1996 of charges of gross indecency and buggery with children. He was sentenced to life in prison five months later. Staff at Brixton prison found him hanging in his cell in the segregation unit at 6.30am on Friday.

A prison service spokesman said that next of kin, the police and the coroner had been informed. An internal investigation into the death will be held at the prison.

## Employers 'expect far too much'

Employers' expectations of workers are "tumbling out of control", making staff yearn for job security and satisfaction, a poll has shown.

Research by the GMB general union, covering 350 organisations, showed that job security was the most important issue listed by workers, well ahead of pay. Only one in five identified flexibility as important, suggesting that too many were being treated as "dogsbody", said John Edmonds, general secretary of the GMB. "Workers are very ready to be flexible to ensure the success of their organisations, but there are limits. Agile production is a step too far, the inflation in employers' expectations is ever-increasing."

## Green light for Dublin prostitutes

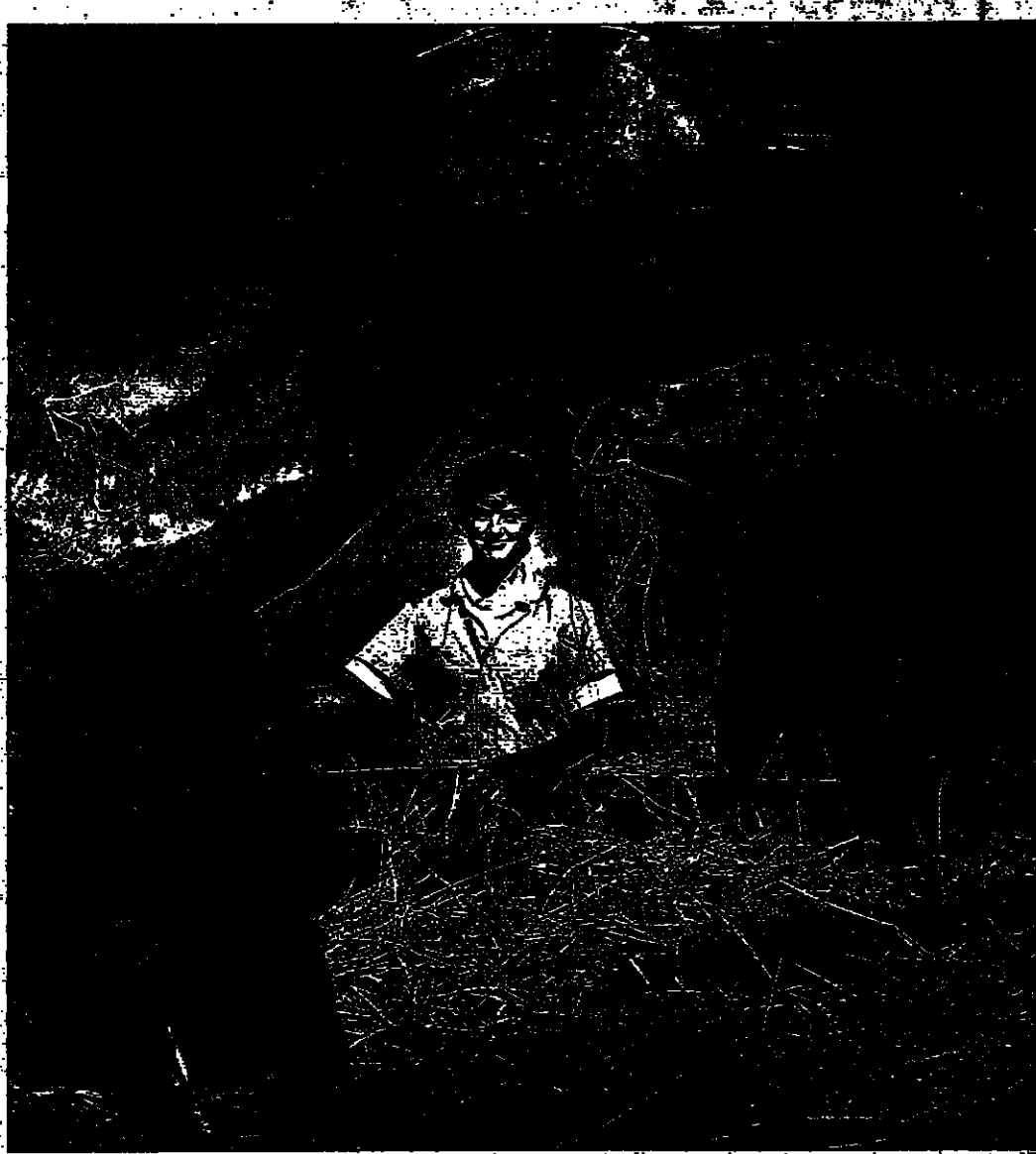
A women's group yesterday called for the establishment of an official red light district in the centre of Dublin.

The Irish capital's Women's Health Project, which provides an outreach service for prostitutes, said the city should have a "toleration zone" for their use. Dublin's estimated record total of 600 working prostitutes is growing - despite coming under pressure from police operating a recently-imposed crackdown - according to project workers.

## £14m National Lottery jackpot

One ticket has won the £14m National Lottery jackpot. The winning numbers were 20, 22, 26, 36, 40, 41, and the bonus 16. The draw was held for the first time on a Sunday as a mark of respect for Diana, Princess of Wales, whose funeral took place on Saturday.

## people



Lulu Skidmore: 'The libido of male camels is not great' (Photograph: Country Life)

## British scientist brings fresh approach to sport of Sheikhs

The sight of twenty hump-backed and ungainly beasts clumping through the dust of the Dubai desert is unlikely to induce the next great scramble for exclusive rights to pay-as-you-view television coverage.

Yet the ancient Bedouin pastime of camel-racing is now such serious business that a young English scientist has been persuaded to devote her expertise in artificial insemination in animals to the quest for producing the perfect racing camel.

Lulu Skidmore, 33, the daughter of a pig farmer from Suffolk, has established herself in a cavernous laboratory in the desert outside Dubai City. Here, at the behest of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the crown prince of Dubai and the defence minister of the United Arab Emirates, she pairs camels into genetically-desirable combinations. A top racing camel can change hands for up to £1.5m but the money involved does little to inspire the reproductive efforts of the animals themselves.

"The libido of male camels is not great," said Dr Skidmore. "They soon tire if they have to mate several camels in a few days."

Dr Skidmore and her team of 10 assistants get round the problem by diluting the camel semen in a liquid containing nutrients which enables it to be used to inseminate up to five female camels at a time.

Formerly employed at the Newmarket-based Equine Fertility Unit, she came to the attention of the

Maktoum family through its interest in English horse-racing, and has lived in Dubai for eight years.

From her desert base, a collection of low-rise buildings and huts alongside a series of high-rise pens in which are housed 100 former racing camels, Dr Skidmore also specialises in embryo transfer. This technique, using surrogate mothers to bear the offspring, is used to overcome the slow gestation period of the camel, which lasts 13 months. "Your top-class female can return to the racetrack and not interrupt her career," explained Dr Skidmore.

There are 20 camel racetracks in the UAE, establishing it as the world capital of camel-racing, although different forms of the sport exist in Kenya, Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

Though camel-racing dates back thousands of years, the modern version of the sport was developed in the 1970s and is dependent on such modern inventions as the four-wheel drive and the television set for its spectator appeal.

As the camels gallop off into the desert for the 12-mile race, their progress race is filmed from the back of chasing jeeps and relayed back to spectators in the grandstand.

Betting is expressly forbidden, in accordance with Islamic law, but the owner of the first camel past the post is traditionally rewarded with a Mercedes car or a golden sword.

Ian Burrell

## Decision day for Hume in Irish presidential saga

John Hume, leader of Northern Ireland's Social Democratic and Labour Party, is today likely to end the on-off saga surrounding his ambition to succeed Mary Robinson as Irish President.

If he opts to stand it is generally accepted in political circles that the extent of his popular backing will force several other hopefuls out of the running.

After a summer of conflicting signals, Mr Hume's indecision has come up against an effective deadline of this week's parliamentary meetings of the main Dail parties to select their candidates.

Signals from the Hume camp until now suggested he would like the job but only if given a clear run by an invitation to stand from Fianna Fail, Fine Gael and Labour, Ireland's three main parties.

But this luxury has not been provided, amid growing public and Dail conviction that the President should have the popular mandate conferred by an election.

There is a view in Dublin that an explicitly Northern nationalist president at a time when imminent multi-party talks are seeking a delicate balance between Unionist and nationalist camps might not be in the island's best interests. Mrs Robinson's fastidious



neutral stance on the North won public praise even from fringe loyalists. Others have warned that the hugely-increased national and world profile Mrs Robinson gave the presidency, once a retirement post for greyed Dail politicians, may prove too demanding for Mr Hume's fragile health.

However, Mr Hume remains the clear favourite. A recent opinion poll gave him 31 per cent support, with the former taoiseach Albert Reynolds in second place with 13 per cent.

Nominations close at the end of this month, and the election is due on 30 October. Mrs Robinson formally leaves the post at the end of this week, handing over powers in the interim to a presidential commission.

Alan Murdoch

## Stallone to swap boxing ring for race track

Hollywood actor Sylvester Stallone found the glare of the cameras too hot to handle as he revealed plans to make a film about the world of Formula One yesterday.

Stallone signed an agreement before the Italian Grand Prix in Monza for a Hollywood-backed film which will be made in the next 18 months with an international all-star cast. But the *Rocky* star suddenly ended a press conference at which he unveiled the planned production, saying: "It's far too hot in here."

Stallone added that he hoped new technology would help show what it's like to drive a Formula One car which can reach speeds of over 200 miles an hour.

"They are extraordinary machines," he said. "The film will be Europe-based. We will use actual race footage intermingled with staged footage most likely of a high technology that has not been seen before on film." Stallone, who did not say whether he would star in the film, added: "We will also use current grand prix drivers as they are stars already."

Formula One chief Bernie Ecclestone said: "We are very lucky to have a superstar like Sylvester Stallone helping us. I am sure he will make a fantastic film."

## Coltrane adds weight to Channel 4 schedule

Channel 4 will today unveil its first £100m schedule, spearheaded by the biggest man in television - Robbie Coltrane.

Channel 4's budget is more than 25 per cent up on last autumn because of the relaxation of the funding formula which forced it to give ITV huge sums of advertising revenue.

The 47-year-old *Crocker* star will host the six-part *Coltrane's Planes and Automobiles*, a personal indulgence into his fascination with the internal combustion engine in all its forms. "I'm a noisy devil. I'm incapable of walking past a piece of machinery without wanting to know all the details of

its private life. People say it's unnatural and uncool, but I can't believe I'm the only person who thinks engines are fascinating," says Coltrane.

Leading the channel's drama output is *A Dance to the Music of Time*, in which the 12 novels by British author Anthony Powell are distilled into four feature-length films.

Miranda Richardson, Edward Fox and Alan Bennett will be seen in the ambitious dramas based on the rise and fall of the fictitious hero Nicholas Jenkins (played by John Standing).

Michael Jackson, who replaced Michael Grade as C4's chief executive, said: "The increased investment

I have inherited will strengthen Channel 4 to fulfil its unique function. To echo Sir Jeremy Isaacs' founding promise 15 years ago this autumn, Channel 4 should provide programmes for everybody some of the time," he said.

Last year, ITV received £87m from Channel 4 under the funding formula which was set up before Channel 4 began broadcasting. The formula guaranteed half of all Channel 4 revenue for ITV once the channel hit a 14 per cent share of terrestrial advertising revenue. In 1996, it can expect to reap just £50m, but from 1999 Channel 4 will be free of the burden.

## briefing

## HEALTH SERVICES

## Race bias found in diagnosis of mental patients

Mental health services are discriminating against African and Afro-Caribbean patients, it was claimed today.

A survey by mental health charity Mind found African and Afro-Caribbean people are more likely to be diagnosed as schizophrenic, detained in locked wards and treated with higher doses of medication than other ethnic groups.

The "Raised Voices" report is based on the experiences of 100 African and Afro-Caribbean mental health service users in England and Wales.

It found 43 per cent of respondents were diagnosed as schizophrenic and only 8 per cent with depression. This compares with a 14 per cent diagnosis of schizophrenia and 51 per cent depression among other groups of the population.

Thirty two per cent had received counselling and 17 per cent psychotherapy - almost half the level given to whites.

In a bid to tackle these issues, the charity will launch a number of new initiatives at a national conference in London today. These will include a new Government-funded unit called Diverse Minds which will help to develop and deliver training for mental health workers and community groups.

Judi Clements, chief executive of Mind, said: "Increasing amounts of evidence point to the inability of current mental health services to meet the diverse needs of Britain's communities - people have been telling us that they do not feel understood when they are in great distress. There are some extremely good examples of projects and practice that are truly responsive to people's needs, but these are too few and far between."

## TOURISM

## Hotels hit by bedbugs plague



A new breed of super bedbugs is plaguing small London hotels, a hotel guide out today reveals.

One American tourist was so badly bitten he had to have medical treatment, according to *The Good Hotel Guide 1998*, published this week. The guide said London had "some of the dirtiest hotels of any Western city, with indifferent service, shabby rooms, thin walls and depressing decor".

It described the fast-moving, voracious bug (*cimex lectularius*) as "a new peril for visitors". The super bugs were first spotted in 1997 in hotels in the Earl's Court area of west London after a survey of more than 300 hotels by Kensington and Chelsea's environmental health chiefs, said the guide.

Its editors called for cheap hotels to raise their standards and said it was no wonder tourists complained.

"Disgracefully, some of these doss-houses are endorsed by tourist board and hotel associations which should know better," said the guide. "A budget hotel doesn't have to have a central location, but it should be clean and reasonably quiet, with easy access to public transport."

The guide also said that complaints about unexpected costs which bump up hotel bills, such as added service and VAT charges not included in quotations, continued to increase among regular readers of the guide.

*The Good Hotel Guide 1998*, by Hilary Rubinstein and Caroline Raphael; published by Ebury Press; £12.99.

## SOCIETY

## Parents admit drugs ignorance

More than a third of parents think their children know more about drugs than themselves, according to a new survey.

The finding emphasises the importance of a national drug awareness campaign to be launched today by the Health Minister Tessa Jowell, which will urge parents to find out about drugs and their effects via a new booklet, available free from Boots the chemist.

"Drugs and Solvents - Know the Facts", which contains information on drugs and their risks, will be available at all branches of Boots until 14 September. The awareness-raising week has been organised by the Health Education Authority in association with Boots.

## RETAIL

## Home shopping slips to new low

Home shopping, as a proportion of the total retail industry, fell to its lowest level for 10 years in 1996, according to a report published today.

The decline of traditional home shopping - via agents who earn commission on sales - has not been offset by the growth in the direct mail order catalogue business or new methods such as shopping on the Internet. But Verdict, the research consultancy that compiled the report, said there was a new mood of confidence in the industry.

The home shopping market was worth £7.551bn last year, a 3.4 per cent increase on 1995 and a recovery from the 2.1 per cent fall experienced previously, it said.

But the market underperformed the pace growth of all retail sales and accounted for only 4.5 per cent of all retail sales.

It confirmed the position of Great Universal Stores as market leader with 24.2 per cent of the business, with Littlewoods second on 16.1 per cent.

Electronic home shopping, including television shopping channels and the Internet, raised its share of the market but still accounts for only 1 per cent of home shopping or 0.04 per cent of retail sales.

"There is neither the technology nor the demand from the public at present to stimulate growth," Verdict warned.

## HEALTH

## Coping with the misery of migraine

Charity chiefs will today launch a step-by-step guide to help migraine sufferers cope with their condition.

The launch of the free booklet called "Taking Control of Your Migraine" marks the start of Migraine Awareness Week.

An estimated 6 million men, women and children in the UK suffer from migraines. Symptoms include severe head pains, nausea, vomiting, visual disturbances and temporary paralysis.

Disruption to careers, family life, education and social commitments are common complaints.

Executives at the Migraine Trust hope the 16-page booklet, which examines the different types of migraines, trigger factors, kinds of treatment and where to get advice, will help sufferers.

Author Ann Rush, director of the Migraine Trust, said: "The new booklet will go a long way towards helping sufferers cope with this debilitating, long term condition."

"Sufferers need good quality information and practical advice and we are delighted that this booklet addresses some of the more frequently asked questions on migraine. It is a step-by-step guide to migraine."

Migraine Awareness Week will run until 14 September. For a copy of the free booklet contact the Migraine Trust on 0171 831 4818.

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# Money pours into memorial fund

Steve Boggan and Fran Abrams

The fund set up to commemorate the life of Diana, Princess of Wales, was growing rapidly yesterday as the Prime Minister announced plans to establish a permanent memorial to her.

Trustees of the fund revealed that they had been given a cheque for £3m by one unnamed company over the weekend while pledges to the international credit card hotline were being made at the rate of 300 every hour.

Mishcon de Reya, the firm of solicitors administering the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund, said it had received a "huge volume" of donations but a spokeswoman refused to comment on some reports that it had already topped £100m.

Last week, Harrods owner Mohamed Al Fayed, the father of Dodi, Diana's friend, pledged £5m towards the fund.

Kate Knightley Day of Mishcon de Reya said agreements had been drawn up with a number of large companies who would make donations later this week.

"There has been a huge volume of donations," she said.

"We have had touching gifts as small as 20p - a child's pocket money Cellotaped to a handmade card, and donations from business."

"We don't have any official figures but we should start getting them in the next week subject to difficulties such as the funds taking some time clear."

Business on the international credit card hotline - phone number 0990 66 44 22 - was busy, too, with donations averaging between £10 and £20.

The line is capable of accepting 3,500 callers at a time.

The two trustees of the fund, Anthony Julius, a partner at Mishcon de Reya, who used to handle Diana's affairs, and Michael Gibbins, her private secretary, are understood to have drawn up a flexible trust deed that will allow them to make donations to as wide a range of good causes as possible, not only those with which the Princess was most closely associated.

Meanwhile, Tony Blair announced yesterday that Gordon Brown, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, was to

set up a government committee to choose a fitting memorial to Diana.

The small group, which may include cross-party representation as well as people from charities with which the Princess was involved, will work alongside the foundation launched by the Spencer family.

The Prime Minister said on BBC's *Breakfast with Frost* programme that he hoped the group would complement the fund-raising that had already started.

"I think there has to be a permanent memorial and I think the best way of doing that is a lasting

covenant of her work. We will look at this very closely to see what role we can play," he said.

Mr Blair added that the very best memorial would be to build a more compassionate nation to match "the generosity of spirit that typified her".

"People want the sense that there is a legacy there that is going to be taken forward and last," he said.

"Let her legacy be compassion. Let's be a better, more compassionate Britain."

All major bank branches in Britain are accepting cash and cheques, as

are all Post Offices and many building societies.

Alternatively, people can send cheques either to Kensington Palace, London W8 4PU, or to The Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund, PO Box 1, London WC1B 5HW.

Cheques to the fund should be crossed "account payee only" and made out to Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund.

A website has been set up on the Internet to allow people to make credit card donations.

It can be accessed on [www.natwest.com/worldpay](http://www.natwest.com/worldpay).

## Earl spoke in revenge for his lonely childhood

Steve Boggan

Earl Spencer's devastating attack on the Royal Family and the tabloid press was, like the best forms of revenge, served up cold after a week of calculated preparation. But the seeds of its ferocity were planted long ago.

His desire that the Princess of Wales's sons should be sheltered from the "duty and tradition" of a cold, emotionless, royal upbringing has its roots in his own childhood, an impersonal rearing within a broken home.

His loathing of the tabloid press is well known. It was nurtured during the years he watched his sister being hounded by the paparazzi and it bloomed when some newspapers printed pictures of his emaciated former wife, Victoria, receiving treatment for bulimia at a private clinic.

When Charles Edward Maurice Spencer was christened at Westminster Abbey 33 years ago, the Queen was his principal godparent. His is an astonishingly wealthy family that began making vast sums of money from sheep farming in Northamptonshire 500 years ago. The family estate, Althorp, was bought in the 16th century with the proceeds of the trade.

The Earl's childhood was shattered by the divorce of his parents in 1967 when his mother, Frances, Ruth Burke Roache, ran off with Johnny Shand-Kydd - an event which, of course, attracted the atten-

tions of the press. His parents vied for his and Diana's affections in material ways but there appears to have been a cold distance between him and his father, Johnnie, the eighth Earl.

When Johnnie married his second wife, Raine, the children were not told of the wedding in advance. Charles is reputed to have been told about it by his prep school headmaster: the children allegedly called her "Acid Raine" thereafter.

The young Charles and Diana enjoyed privileged childhoods, playing together in the grounds of Royal Sandringham, another family estate. But Andrew Morton in his book *Diana, Her True Story* tells of fears they shared and of their unhappiness over their parents' divorce.

"As children, Charles and Diana were afraid of the dark and they insisted that the landing light was left on or a candle lit in their rooms. Every night as [Diana] lay in her bed, surrounded by her cuddly toys, she could hear her brother sobbing, crying for his mother."

Charles attended Eton, where he was remembered as a quiet but loyal and Magdalen College, Oxford. In 1989 he married Victoria but their relationship broke down despite the arrival of a daughter, Kitty. Meanwhile, he carved out a career for himself in the media, working as a reporter for the American network NBC. Colleagues speak of him as being intelligent and reliable, but one



Earl Spencer delivering his tribute to Diana which contained criticism of the Royal Family and the tabloid press

said: "He was keen to learn and he mixed very well with people and was likeable. There was always the feeling, though, that it was a bit like a hobby - he was so rich he didn't have to do it and, once he got bored with it, he was able to walk away."

But it was never that simple. As Diana's brother, he had

always been hounded by the tabloid press and he tenaciously fought back, through the Press Complaints Commission or the courts.

But the pictures of a terribly ill Victoria were the last straw; two years ago, he moved to Cape Town in South Africa to escape the media glare.

## Candle in the Wind set to be all-time best-seller

Amanda Kelly

"Candle in the Wind", the Elton John song which brought tears to the eyes of many on Saturday, is tipped to be the biggest-selling single of all time and raise up to £10m for charity.

The song, which was rewritten specially for the funeral, will keep its original title when it goes on sale next week. All the money raised by the record will be donated to the Princess's Foundation.

It was originally composed as a tribute to Marilyn Monroe but only made it to number five in the charts when it was released in the 1970s. The new version is expected to rocket to the top of music charts all over the world.

John, who was a close friend of Diana's, went straight from his emotional performance at Westminster Abbey to record the single. He was accompanied by Sir George Martin, the man responsible for producing the best of the Beatles songs.

Speaking on the BBC programme *Breakfast with Frost* yesterday, the singer said: "George suggested I did a piano and a voice live and I did two takes. The second was re-



Elton John at the funeral singing his new 'Candle in the Wind', which was originally a tribute to Marilyn Monroe

ally, really good. I did some harmonies on it and he added some string quartet and some woodwind. The record will be out on Saturday or Monday. I just thought people might want a reminder of Saturday."

The musician described singing the song as probably the most nerve-racking moment of his life. "When I started singing and playing, I suddenly realised this was it. I was fairly composed all the way through and I sang

it well. But at the beginning of the last verse, my voice cracked and I was really choked full of emotion. I had to close my eyes and grit my teeth and get through it."

"It was more emotional when I had finished. It was just a huge relief to have sung it and not get the words wrong."

He said he had used a teleprompter to help him remember the new lyrics. "I just thought, I am not going to mess this up on such a big occasion," he added.

## Death to affect British economy

Kathy Marks

The passing of Diana, Princess of Wales, has left the nation emotionally impoverished. More prosaically, even the British economy is likely to be adversely affected by her death.

The Centre for Economics and Business Research says today that sharply reduced spending on entertainment, visits to leisure attractions and sporting events in the past week could lead to retail sales figures in Sep-

tember nearly 1 per cent lower than expected.

"Traffic congestion in central London over the past week, as mourners converged on the Royal palaces to pay their respects, will probably have reduced business productivity too. Net gross domestic product for the third quarter of the year is likely to be down by nearly £200m, or 0.1 per cent."

On the other side of the coin, expenditure on flowers and other mementoes will have benefited the economy, and extra

tourism revenue will have been generated by the thousands of people visiting London for Saturday's funeral.

The CEBR predicts an eventual "Graceland effect", with London and other areas associated with the Princess attracting crowds of visitors in the same way that Memphis, Tennessee, draws disciples of Elvis Presley.

But the "Diana effect" is likely to be on an even bigger scale, the centre says, as sales of memorabilia build up.

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Diana 1961-1997

the reaction

# All America stays up for the replay

Mary Dejevsky  
Washington

How much is too much? was the question that cropped up repeatedly on yesterday's prime-time television talk shows and in the opinion columns of America's voluminous Sunday papers. The answer was summed up in a throw-away line from the host of perhaps the most prestigious talk show, *Meet The Press*: "... And later, Mother Teresa of Calcutta."

As producers and editors concurred, their problem was akin to that of the British Royal Family: they made their plans, then they made them again in the light of demand. Over last week, most particularly on Saturday and Sunday, the pace was dictated by the public – and where the US media were concerned, the public just couldn't get enough of Diana.

Millions of Americans – the exact number has not yet been

established – rose in the early hours of Saturday morning, or just never went to bed – to view the funeral live. By Friday night, several networks had decided that those who slept through their alarm clocks would still want to watch. On Saturday morning, the live relays, without – almost unprecedented for America – commercial breaks, were followed almost immediately by full, uncut, replays of the funeral. Despite promises from several channels

that normal programmes would resume – that did not happen. Even channels not known for live or extensive coverage of such events – Fox News was one such, the Arts and Entertainment cable channel was another – joined the mainstream networks, CNN and even C-Span (which generally broadcasts the US Congress proceedings and related matters) – in broadcasting the funeral live. Several took the BBC coverage in its entirety, but

even the majority which did not applied unaccustomed restraint during the service. Commentators such as Tom Brokaw, Dan Rather and Barbara Walters refrained from comment during the funeral, returning to the import of Earl Spencer's speech only afterwards.

Surprisingly, perhaps, in a country which is determinedly republican, the political significance of Earl Spencer's criticism of the Windsors took

second place in the US media to his vilification of the paparazzi. Their alleged role in Diana's death and a possible backlash against tabloid journalism in the US remained central to the US commentaries. By yesterday, it was apparent that the extent of Diana coverage here had divided the US media establishment. Some suggested that the coverage was excessive, mawkish and at times pathetic. But one insight was given in a report from the

*Washington Post*, where a reporter recounted discussion at the paper last week about whether coverage should be scaled down. A few "white males" had argued for doing so, but found themselves comprehensively outvoted with women and most passionately from ethnic minority women in the forefront of the counter-argument. Which reinforces another aspect of the response to Diana's death in the US. Women, of all ages and ethnic groups,

were prominent among the mourners. Women also turned out in large numbers at the Washington memorial service at the National Cathedral on Saturday, where one of the tributes was given by Katharine Graham, chairman of the *Washington Post*. Among Mrs Graham's memories was an episode in which she heard an inveterate gambler ask Diana whether she gambled: "Not with cards," she was heard to reply, "but with life."

## People and flowers keep on coming

Jojo Moyes

If the Royal family had thought that the funeral of the Princess of Wales would stem the public displays of emotion, they were wrong.

At Kensington Palace yesterday, they were not letting her go quietly. By midday the gardens were more crowded than it had been on the day of her funeral. Anyone walking down Kensington High Street could have been forgiven for thinking there was some kind of huge family fair on. At one stage it took five minutes just to get in, or out of, one of the gates.

People streamed in bearing flowers, balloons, or personal notes. Many pushed children in prams, children they had been afraid to bring last week because of the crush. Nearly all carried cameras, to record the extraordinary sea of flowers that still crept outwards by the hour.

Police, clearly struggling to direct the ever-increasing flow, were simply trying to keep the mass moving. At High Street Kensington Tube, they had decided it was a matter of safety first, and simply opened all the ticket barriers, allowing the crowds to flood through.

The McClune family were taking a short breather on the grass. They had travelled to the palace from Croydon, and were stunned by the number of people there.

"It was such a sad day yesterday, that we thought although we got our emotions out, we had to come and pay our respects. It feels better to have seen it up close," said Barry McClune.

"There seems to be more people here than there were at Hyde Park yesterday. But it's very quiet and peaceful. It's nice," said his wife Moira.

Few people were crying, and there were no signs of the grieving that had marked the previous day's events. Instead, people sat with picnic, or walked, chatting quietly, examining the notes and flowers that hung from trees even a quarter mile from the gates of the palace, makeshift shrines heavy with the scent of candles.

Palace officials announced yesterday



A young girl among the mourners at Kensington Palace yesterday. Royal officials have announced that the flower will be cleared tomorrow

Photograph: Kalpesh Luthiga

that tomorrow, the flowers will be cleared. The fresh ones will be given to old people's homes and hospitals at the request of Diana's family, while dead flowers will be turned into compost to grow new plants in Kensington Gardens.

But many of those present yesterday said that the memorials would continue. "We will be bringing flowers again. I think it should carry on. I go to my mother's grave

to put flowers, so this is just the same," said Moira McClune. "This is just somewhere where you're not intruding on the family's grief."

Elizabeth Beesley, from Bournemouth, and her mother Joan Hounsell from Poole, said they had friends who were planning to come and lay flowers later in the week.

"I think it will die down after this week,

but there should be a focal point, because people will still want to come and pay their respects, whether they're from out of town, or America, or whatever," Ms Beesley said. "But I think there will always be flowers here."

Suggestions that the prolonged pilgrimage to the gardens might be verging on the unhealthy were swiftly batted down.

"How can it be unhealthy to want to

commemorate someone's life?" said Steve Hampton, from Chicago, on holiday in London. "You guys just get uncomfortable because it doesn't seem like a British thing to do."

But Karen Lombard and Philip Court from South Africa – while admitting that the flowers "took their breath away" – thought there should be a limit.

"It should carry on for another week or

so, then give it a rest. It's not fair to make it a shrine given that it was the boys' home. It just makes it more difficult for them to get on with it," said Karen Lombard.

"But what the palace should do is collect up all those cards and poems with the messages for the boys. It would be a big help for them to know how much they are all loved."

## Churches overflow for last farewell

Amanda Kelly

Churches around the country were overflowing yesterday as worshippers gathered together to say a final farewell to the Princess of Wales.

In special services, heartfelt prayers were said for Diana and her family as the nation struggled to return to normal life following her funeral.

Organisers of a commemorative service in Birmingham's Centenary Square were amazed when 20,000 people turned up to pay their respects.

The mourners bowed their heads and wiped tears from their eyes as Bishop Mark Satter spoke on behalf of the people of Birmingham.

In Dublin, more than 3,000 people in the Church of Ireland Cathedral honoured Diana at a memorial service led by Ireland's President Mary Robinson.

A requiem mass at Salford Cathedral drew another thousand mourners, who laid bouquets and lit candles to mark the mass.

The Bishop of Durham, the Rt Rev Michael Turnbull, urged 3,000 people packed into Durham Cathedral not to make an idol of Diana. "She was frequently portrayed in the media as a fantasy figure... Yet we know that idolatry misses the reality and devalues the precious

truth about her," he said.

Diana was also honoured at a number of other events being held up and down the country.

Princess Michael of Kent addressed the crowds at a charity polo match she hosted next door to Highgrove House in Gloucestershire where Prince Charles was comforting his sons William and Harry.

She told the spectators that she had considered cancelling the event but said: "I know in my heart she would have wished us to carry on."

We were neighbours at Kensington Palace and used to wave to each other from the windows. She had such a feeling for the plight of the young and sick. In her memory we should continue her work."

The National Anthem was played and a minute's silence held at the Shephway Air Show in Kent and cyclists taking part in a charity ride in south London each wore a single flower in memory of Diana.

Meanwhile, a 12,000-strong crowd at Watford Football Club gave Elton John a standing ovation yesterday when he took his seat for the first time since resigning as the club's chairman.

Watford fans had been warned that the singer, who stirred the nation on Saturday with his special performance of "Candle in the Wind", would not be addressing the crowd.

Stephen Godwin

The winds of change were still pressing on the Royal Family yesterday despite their withdrawal once again into their private fastness of Balmoral.

In a service at Crathie parish church attended by the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh, Diana, Princess of Wales, was praised by the Queen's chaplain, the Rev Robert Sloan, as a loving mother with a special personality – a stark contrast to this chilly service a week earlier when Diana wasn't mentioned.

Immediately after the service, the Queen was joined for lunch at Balmoral by Tony Blair and his wife Cherie. The Prime Minister remained at the royal residence on Deeside, in Scotland, for most of the afternoon but on leaving refused to answer questions on what was discussed.

In a probably unprecedented departure, the Prime Minister's motorcade stopped shortly after leaving the gates of Balmoral, but on the opposite bank of the Dee, and he and his wife got out briefly to shake hands with well-wishers. More than 400 people had gathered outside the parish church to see the royal party, including the Queen Mother attend the morning service and the Queen was given warm, if somewhat restrained applause as she was driven back to her castle. A bank of flowers placed in memory of the princess has been growing beside the gate since Thursday.

Prior to that flowers had been cleared each day, to the dismay of some who regarded their removal as unsympathetic.

The plunge in public esteem for the Royal Family last week began with the bad impression made by the morning service at Crathie. Princes William and Harry accompanied the Prince of Wales and their grandparents, but there was no mention of Diana during the service. Mr Sloan's reasoning, explained afterwards, was that it would not have been appropriate so soon after the boys had been told of their mother's death.

Yesterday, though neither the young princes nor their father was present, Mr Sloan made amends. Leading the prayers he commended Diana's willingness to respond to victims of prejudice, poverty, disease and war and said she would be remembered as a mother whose love and enjoyment of her children was overwhelming.

"But above all else," he said, "we give thanks for the love she showed as a mother and for her sense of fun and for the happy memories which her children will always treasure."

In an ambiguous passage Mr Sloan bid the congregation pray for guidance "at this time of decision so we might pass on a heritage worthy of our best yesterdays and welcoming to the things of tomorrow". It sounded like a plea for a more open monarchy, but the Queen's chaplain said later that he was referring to Thursday's referendum.



Tony Blair on yesterday's *Breakfast with Frost* programme. He later had an audience with the Queen at Balmoral

## Queen's chaplain praises Diana the loving mother

## Editors start work on new privacy code

Steve Boggan

Moves to tighten the Press and media's code of practice over privacy will begin in earnest this week.

Sir David English, chairman of the Press Complaints Commission's code of practice committee, insisted today that the Press must heed the stinging rebuke of the media by Earl Spencer during his tribute to his sister at Saturday's funeral.

Tony Blair said during a BBC interview yesterday that he hoped newspaper editors would not subject Prince William to the kind of media bombardment endured by Diana.

But he went on to say: "I've never been convinced about privacy laws. I don't think you ever get to the stage of saying you're ruling anything out, but I personally think... it requires [of editors] a degree of acceptance of what is proper conduct towards people."

PCC chairman Lord Wakeham announced a tour of tabloid editors' offices this week as he begins to work on proposals for reform, although self-regulation was still being seen as the way-ahead.

It appeared last night that Lord Spencer's electrifying tribute to his sister on Saturday, with its no-holds barred attack on the Press, was the final spur needed to prompt at the very

least a fresh stab at tougher self-regulation.

He vowed to protect Princes William and Harry from the harassment which had caused his sister such anguish and all but driven her out of Britain. And he accused the Press of turning Diana into "the most hunted person of the modern age".

Sir David, chairman and editor-in-chief of Associated Newspapers, said: "I think we in the Press have got to listen very much to what Spencer said. You can't ignore him."

He said he believed the Press must not be so hard on the Royals in the way they reported things.

But he insisted that, if the focus was set to shift onto Diana's elder son, William, all of the British Press had a very good record: in the last two years they had kept to the rules of a deal in which they had promised not to use paparazzi pictures of William in return for formal pictures.

"I think that will continue, and speaking for Associated Newspapers, we will never use them - we will never use paparazzi pictures of William while he is growing up."

"And I don't think that any other paper will either. This is something the PCC and self-regulation will now have to make work - and we will," Sir David said.

هكذا من الأصل





Tricky act: Jean-Thierry Barat of the Cirque Baroque performing in Candles at Three Mills Island Green in east London at the weekend. The show, which runs until 21 September, features circus skills, contemporary theatre techniques and pantomime, pop and literature  
Photograph: Laurie Lewis

## Lobbyist and new peers gave pre-election cash to Labour

Fran Abrams  
Political Correspondent

Ian Greer, the lobbyist at the centre of the cash-for-questions scandal which engulfed the Tories, is named as a major donor to the Labour Party in a report for its annual conference later this month.

Five new Labour peers also gave large sums of money to Labour last year. A second lobbyist, Richard Faulkner, joint managing director of Westminster Communications, is also revealed as a leading financial donor. All gave more than £5,000 to the party.

In July four big donors were elevated to the House of Lords. They were Ruth Rendell, the author, David Puttnam, the film producer, David Sainsbury, chairman and chief executive of J Sainsbury and Michael Montague, a businessman. The fifth, Swraj Paul, became a life peer in July last year.

Mr Greer, as head of Ian Greer Associates, was the go-between for payments to several

Tory MPs, some of which were found to have breached Commons rules.

According to the report from Labour's National Executive Committee the number of high-level donors more than trebled last year. In 1995, just 17 organisations gave more than £5,000, compared with 55 in 1996.

The amount raised through party fundraising went up from

£4m in 1995 to £10m in 1996, and a further £5m was given in donations in the four month run-up to the election.

Peter Goldsmith QC, who recently became chairman of a City watchdog, the Financial Reporting Review Panel, also made a large donation. In the run-up to the election he was mentioned as a possible future solicitor-general.

A number of well-known

party supporters from business and the arts were among the high-level donors, who were listed for the first time last year after a rule change.

Among them were the publisher Paul Hamlyn, who gave £600,000, the Chelsea football club vice-chairman Matthew Harding, who gave £1m shortly before dying in a helicopter crash and the actor Jeremy Irons.

A number of trades unions gave money to Labour, including the General, Municipal and Boilermakers' union and the Transport and General Workers' Union, though the proportion of party funds given by the unions dropped below 50 per cent for the first time last year.

They gave 45 per cent, compared with 76 per cent in 1986. Two unions which gave more than £5,000 in 1995 did not do so in 1996. They were the Amalgamated Electrical and Engineering Union and the Communication Workers Union.

Although the report does not give a final figure for

Labour's general election campaign spending, it says it is expected to exceed £13m. In 1992, the party spent £10.4m and in 1987 it spent just £4.2m.

The party's general election fund was £1m overdrawn on 30 June this year but the deficit is expected to be cleared by the end of the year.

Asked about Labour's union funding in an interview with the

BBC's *Breakfast with Frost* programme yesterday, the Prime Minister said party donors should not expect anything for their money.

"Nobody gives us any finances in return for anything," he said.

"Nobody, whether an individual or a company, gets anything other than a government whose ideas and principles they support."

## Women's dual burden belies new man myth

Glenda Cooper and  
Barrie Clement

Despite protests to the contrary it appears new man is a myth. A survey of 10,000 adults found that working women carry a "dual burden" - doing on average nine hours more housework a week than their husbands.

The British Household Panel Survey also shows that not only sex differences but class differences in the conditions of work are alive and well.

The 1990s has seen little change in how husbands and wives divide up their jobs. The data released at the beginning of the British Association of Science Week found that around 28 per cent of couples have two full-time jobs with the old standard breadwinner/housewife pattern where a husband works full time and the wife part time has fallen from 18 per cent to 15 per cent.

However, even these households where both spouses have full time work have rather less gender equality than might be expected, with researchers describing any resemblance between husbands' and wives' work lives as "only superficial".

"Full time employed women continue to carry a 'dual burden': the husbands have in effect one job where they have two," said Jonathan Gershuny of the Economic and Social Research Council. When both men and women are employed full time women do on average nine hours more work.

When women have longer working hours than men they still do at least six more hours of housework a week. And when both are unemployed the wife will do as many as 14 hours more housework per week.

"The role that most women play as mother/housekeeper still significantly affects their career opportunities," said Professor Gershuny. "Although the

absolute number of women in the work force has increased in recent years they still bear the greatest burden for family care so their promotion prospects, job security and earnings potential are still much more restricted than are men."

The survey, which has interviewed 5,000 households (10,000 adults) annually since 1991 also suggests that in any one full year 73 per cent of men and 63 per cent of women are in stable employment or are self employed, 12 per cent of men and a quarter of women are out of the work force and 15 per cent of men and 24 per cent of women experience short-term movements in and out of work.

But when considering the differences between the burdens of husbands and wives, it also notes that despite the number of wives in full time work, in fact fewer than one quarter of all wives spend as much time in paid work as their husbands do, while around one half of all husbands spend "substantially longer" working for money than their wives do.

If gender differences are still alive in the late 20th century, then the class divide also still exists. The research shows that half of all male technical and clerical workers will experience some time out of work over a four-year period, whereas less than a third of professional and managerial workers will have the same experience during the same period.

Only 23 per cent of professional and managerial men will have some time out of the labour force during the four-year period, compared with 53 per cent of male technicians and clerical workers.

There is an apparent overall stability in the level of secure employment (around 78 per cent) in any one year.

But the study noted an apparent trend, through the 1990s, of a substantial rise in annual job insecurity of male manual workers.

## Unions and bosses fall out as social partnership talks fail

Barrie Clement  
Labour Editor

Confidential documents reveal that the first attempt at "social partnership" under a Labour government has hit severe problems on the controversial issue of union recognition.

On the eve of the TUC's annual congress in Brighton, the papers show that a dialogue between Congress House and the CBI and prompted by the Prime Minister, has run into trouble.

John Monks, TUC general secretary, yesterday conceded publicly that a deal between unions and employers on the shape of legislation promised by the Government was unlikely.

The documents seen by the

TUC's ruling general council illustrate the CBI's lack of enthusiasm for a law which would enforce recognition where half the employees wanted it.

Tony Blair, who will be addressing delegates tomorrow has told Mr Monks that the unions had "some persuading to do" as far as the CBI was concerned. The concept of social partnership between unions and management has drawn particular support from ministers at the Department of Trade and Industry, but the policy seems to be falling at the first fence because of traditional attitudes.

Such disagreements sit uneasily with the "Partners For Progress" theme at the congress which will be attended by 15 ministers.

Representatives of the CBI have told TUC officials that there should be a "threshold of membership" before a union could submit a claim for recognition to the proposed Representation Agency which would adjudicate.

Officials from Congress House disagreed, saying that while the agency should have the power to reject "frivolous" claims an initial test of membership would add another stage of bureaucracy to the process. Unions also reiterated their feeling that where union membership stood at 50 per cent, recognition rights should be automatic and there should be "no separate test of opinion".

Despite Mr Monks' pessimism, the document says that

while the CBI had "reservations" about Labour's manifesto commitment to statutory rights on recognition, they were proceeding on the basis that there would be a White Paper and legislation in the 1998-99 Parliament.

A poll by the TUC showed that employment rights sought by unions was backed by 74 per cent of the population. Mr Monks made it clear that the movement would take action against those who were denying employee rights and he singled out seven companies, including Railtrack and Dixons, the electrical retailer, where unions claimed to have more than 50 per cent of the employees in membership, but where recognition was denied.

## Europe investigates UK police

Patricia Wynn Davies  
Legal Affairs Editor

Mounting complaints over the failure to discipline or to prosecute police officers found to have ill-treated suspects has prompted the first investigation of UK police complaints procedures by the Council of Europe's committee for the prevention of torture.

The committee, appointed under the 1987 European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (ECPT), which has been signed by 35 states, begins the

investigation today. Because it is an *ad hoc* inquiry, British police and criminal justice authorities would have been given only limited notice of the visit. It follows the three successful High Court challenges in July - two concerning deaths in custody and one involving torture - against Dame Barbara Mills, the Director of Public Prosecutions, which resulted in controls on Crown Prosecution Service decisions over death-in-custody or ill-treatment prosecutions of police officers.

But the committee, known as the CPZ, is expected to carry out a broader-ranging investigation

into police discipline, including an examination of why significant numbers of police officers escape disciplinary charges, despite jury awards of damages to claimants in civil cases for assault, malicious prosecution and false imprisonment.

The delegation, which includes Claude Nicolay, who heads the committee, and members from the Netherlands and Cyprus, has powers under the convention to request files and access to anyone who can provide information. The committee members are expected to seek inspection of documents at the Metropolitan Police, the Po-

lice Complaints Authority and the Crown Prosecution Service. The convention also allows for periodic visits, of which there have been two to the UK mainland in 1990 and 1994.

Two of the High Court challenges involved Shiji Lapite, who died in police custody after his larynx was crushed by an officer, and Derek Treadaway, whom a judge found had been tortured by officers putting plastic bags over his head. Raju Bhatti, the solicitor who brought the two cases, said: "I hope that what the committee would be looking at is the virtual immunity police officers enjoy."

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# England's regions lose out in power game

Anthony Bevins  
Political Editor

The penalty suffered by the English – because they are not Northern Irish, Scottish or Welsh – was dramatically illustrated by figures showing that England receives a disproportionately small share of millennium money.

Answering a question from Roseanna Cunningham, a Scottish Nationalist MP, the Millennium Commission revealed that out of almost £1bn paid out in capital grants for prize projects, two-thirds had gone to England.

The revelation has added weight to the Government's plans to devolve power, which are under way in some regions.

England accounts for 83.5 per cent of the population of the United Kingdom. Yet it gets only 60 per cent, £656m, of the money.

Northern Ireland has 2.8 per cent of the UK population, but it got 7.7 per cent

of the cash: Wales has 5 per cent of the people and 10.5 per cent of the money; while Scotland has 8.7 per cent of the people and 15.8 per cent of the money.

And the English penalty is, as always, aggravated by the fact that London tends to do quite well – with 11.6 per cent of the population and 10.6 per cent of the millennium grants.

The Celtic fringe, and London, do so well because they have developed a political identity – and clout. Because they make a noise, they get the sweeteners.

It would make sense for Scotland and Wales to get more money from Whitehall, if they were significantly worse off than the English regions.

But as Richard Caborn, minister for the regions, said yesterday that most of the English regions are now running well behind European average per capita income – while Scotland and Wales have caught up with that average since they were given their own regional development authorities in 1974.

The July unemployment rate for Scotland and Wales was 6.3 per cent – but that was less than the rate for Merseyside, the North-east and London. Yorkshire and Humberside had a rate of 6.2 per cent.

The point is also made by the Treasury analysis of its own regional expenditure that while the English regions fare badly, some – such as East Anglia and the East Midlands – do worse than all the others.

The people in the most generously treated region, the North-west, get almost a fifth more money, per person than the least-favoured East Midlands.

The political and economic imperative that sees cash flowing to where the power is will ensure the eventual public endorsement of the Government plans.

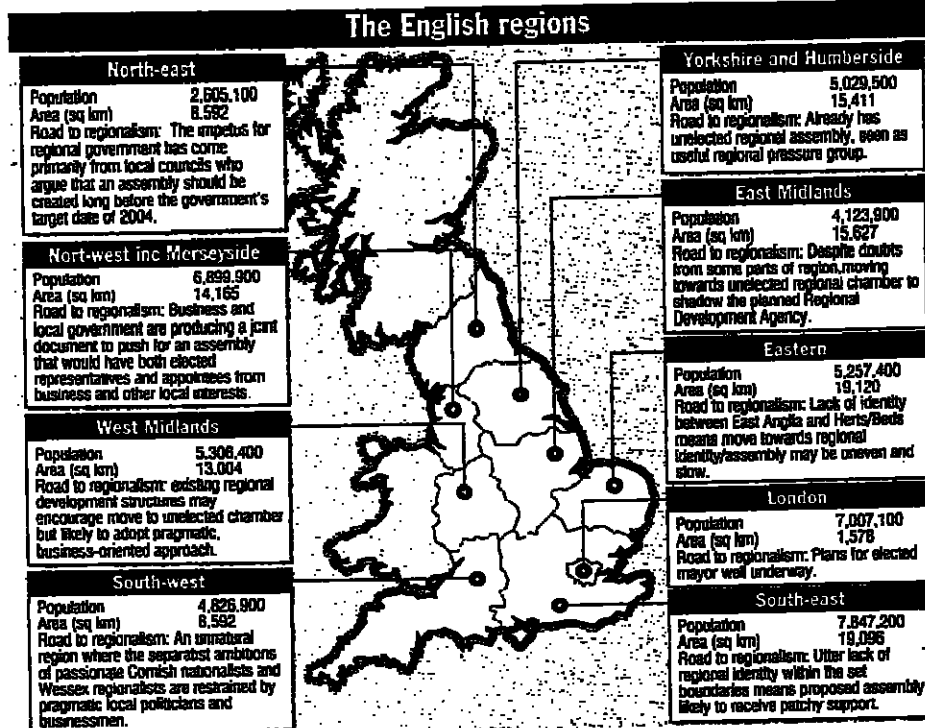
Scotland votes next week. Wales the week after, and London follows with a referendum of its own for the creation of an elected strategic authority, and

mayor, to take responsibility for economic regeneration, planning, transport, environmental protection, and policing.

As Michael Heseltine set up the existing framework for English devolution, the Government Regional Offices, which currently spend about £4.6bn of taxpayers' money in the English regions, and as the Tories are now defending an English rural laager, they might yet find it difficult to oppose something that will be in the interests of their constituents.

But there is a resistance from Whitehall, with some ministers trying to defend their empires. Because devolution increases local power, it necessarily reduces the power of the centre and that arouses political rivalries.

Some ministers are less committed to the policy than Tony Blair, but Scotland and Wales are only the beginning of a process that will see a fundamental change in the way England, too, is governed.



Rebel yell: Cornish separatism has been stirred by a march to London three months ago to re-enact the 1497 uprising and by the completion of the first Cornish dictionary

## Realpolitik replaces a Cornish passion

**Ian Burrell goes West to test the Cornish waters, as Christian Wolmar (below) finds strange friends in the North**

The flag of St Piran flies from church towers over Cornwall but the county which was once Britain's fourth ancient kingdom still remains firmly tied to London.

Just three months ago, thousands of Cornish people took part in a march on the capital to re-enact the An Gof rebellion of 1497 when up to 2,000 rebels were slain by Henry VII's army.

The march stirred a wave of nationalist fervour to accompany a cultural revival which has seen the compilation of the first Cornish dictionary and translation of the Bible into the Cornish language.

Yet the poor showing of the nationalist Mebyon Kernow (Sons of Cornwall) party at the general election, showed that the feeling was more one of misty-eyed sentimentalism than a true desire for separatism.

John Mills, chief executive of Cornwall County Council, said that such passions had to give way to the realpolitik of modern life.

"Whilst appreciating and applauding Cornwall's distinctive geography, culture and history, it is utterly folly and totally unrealistic to contemplate 'inde-

pendence", he said. "From a purely economic point of view we are utterly integrated with England."

And so, last month, the county council chose pragmatism and decided to co-operate with plans by Richard Caborn, minister for the regions, to set up a regional development agency (RDA) for seven counties in the South-west.

Nevertheless, the council pointed out that its preferred option would have been a Cornwall Development Agency, and it noted that "every effort should be made to ensure that the RDA's headquarters should be located in Cornwall and not in Bristol, which seems to the people of Cornwall as remote as London."

Indeed, the northern end of

Gloucestershire, which will form part of this huge and disparate economic region, is as near to Carlisle as it is to Penzance.

Loveday Jenkin, spokeswoman for Mebyon Kernow, said Cornwall's chances of attracting European development funds would be greatly harmed by being lumped with the wealthier counties of Devon, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Somerset, Wiltshire and the former Avon.

"Parts of Avon and Somerset are extremely rich while Cornwall is depressed, with low wages and high levels of homelessness. We need our own regional assembly to deal directly with Brussels and not go through either London or Bristol," she said.

The Marquess of Bath, who founded the Wessex Regionalist Party, is a supporter of the new RDA, provided it is linked to a new regional chamber. He would like to see England divided into eight self-governing regions.

"If we are to have a democratic Europe we have got to evolve away from the nation towards a united regions of Europe," he said.

## Rivals unite to lobby for northern assembly

A unique experiment is taking place in the North-west which could lead to an entirely new form of government.

Last week, local authority and business leaders met under the auspices of the North-west Partnership to agree to submit a document to government seeking the creation of an assembly which would be part elected and part appointed by business, big and small, and other local interests such as educational institutions and trade unions.

The document will be sent in at the end of this week backed by many local interests.

The new body would have 70 per cent elected representatives and 30 per cent appointed. While, in the North-east, business has been opposed to the idea of an elected assembly, in the North-west, business has been one of the main driving

forces. Terry Thomas, the recently unnobled managing director of the Co-op Bank and chairman of the partnership said: "We are going to run things in an entirely different way and it will be very popular. We will be able to do things as a region which we just could not at the moment." He cites the plethora of local initiatives and agencies who "constantly fight among themselves and try to empire build".

Mr Thomas reckons that the co-ordination of the assembly will allow the region "to concentrate on, say, three priorities in a year and ensure that they are successful".

While it has been a considerable achievement to get consensus across the sectors, it has been even a greater one to unite Manchester and Liverpool in the campaign for the assembly.

The hatchet has been buried but the rivalries remain.

Frank Prendergast, the leader of Liverpool City Council said, "at the meeting we joked that the only two places the assembly would not be located were Manchester and Liverpool".

In fact, Mr Thomas says that the row over the development of Manchester airport's second runway, while Liverpool's has spare capacity, is the sort of issue which would be avoided with a regional assembly. "... it will ensure that decisions are taken for the benefit of the whole region ...

"It will be possible to knock heads together."

He is amazed at the progress that the issue of regional government has made and the way it has united local interests. "Two years ago I would have said it was impossible."

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Banks urged to



# Fines in train over phones left ringing

Randeep Ramesh  
Transport Correspondent

Train companies are set to be fined hundreds of thousands of pounds by the rail regulator after a week where one in four calls from passengers using the telephone enquiry service went unanswered.

Executives at the Association of Train Operating Companies (Atoc), which administers the system, admit that fines are "likely" and blame an unforeseen "surge" in calls for the poor results.

The admission flies in the face of assurances made last month by Ivor

Warburton, a director of Virgin Trains and chairman of Atoc, that the service would hit the targets set.

The performance of the National Rail Enquiry Service is being monitored by John Swift QC, the rail regulator. Mr Swift decided to act after receiving the figures from 25 private rail operators, which showed that 49 per cent of calls went unanswered in April and 35 per cent of calls made were not taken in May.

In the first week under scrutiny, beginning 17 August, only 75 per cent of calls were answered, despite 30 extra operators being hired. In the next seven days, the service still failed to

meet the regulator's target of restricting the number of unanswered calls to 1 in 10.

In the first fortnight of the penalty period, telephone operators managed on average to take 82 per cent of all the incoming calls. Unless this improves, the privatised rail companies will face a fine of £550,000. Even if the service manages to meet the regulator's target of 90 per cent for the next two weeks, the penalties will top £200,000.

"It is very, very difficult to recover from one or two days of heavy demand," said Alec McFavish, director of operations at Atoc.

"In the first week we had to deal with 1.4m calls, which was a record. What we did not know was that the August bank holiday would generate so many enquiries."

Atoc admits that it would need to answer 98 calls out of every 100 for the next two weeks in order to avoid financial penalties. Given that the service has only once met the 90 per cent target since Atoc took over last year, executives admit that such high standards "probably will not be reached in the next two weeks".

The system has been handling more than 1 million calls a week - up by more than 200,000 on last year's

figures - but has seemed incapable of taking many more enquiries. Train managers are also pointing out that because of the funeral arrangements for Diana, Princess of Wales, the system may have been subjected to "unreasonable" numbers of calls.

Another problem for Atoc is that the rail regulator has decided not to rescind his "enforcement order" at the end of the four-week period, which ends on 14 September. This means that the service will continue to be fined indefinitely until the regulator's target is regularly reached.

Atoc executives have begun to

question the policy of fining companies for poor customer service. "We have industry targets that are much higher than the regulator's own ambitions... but it will take time to get there. You have to ask whether it is worth fining companies in the meantime," said Mr McFavish.

The privatised rail companies would like to introduce a computerised voicemail system that would place callers in a queueing system - although the regulator has argued that if this were adopted, a freephone number should be used so that passengers were not charged while waiting for an operator.

Rail campaigners pointed out that the passengers would be put off using rail, instead of the roads if they could not get information out easily. Jonathan Bray, campaigns director of rail pressure group Save Our Railways, said: "The telephone service has fallen apart because the privatised rail companies have sub-contracted the service to cut-price operators on the basis of cost and not quality."

A senior source at rail regulator's office said that companies would be fined if they failed to meet the targets. "We have to wait for the four-week period before we make any statement," said one official.

## Cyclists ride into a storm over journey to forest

Randeep Ramesh

The rural idyll in one of England's oldest forests is being shattered by cyclists who are travelling into the area in cars. The Forest of Dean cycle track, which has been open for 18 months, is proving so popular that cyclists from as far as Birmingham and London are flocking to the woodland - and filling it with fumes.

Local environmentalists are so concerned that they have undertaken pilot studies to assess the new phenomena. They found that in one three-hour period in July, 151 cars carrying 325 cycles entered the area. This was 50 per cent higher than the previous year.

Mary Newton, co-ordinator of the Dean Environmental Alliance, said: "Add to this the number of cycles carried in vans and estate cars, which cannot be seen to be counted and those vehicles travelling to the centre of the forest to hire cycles and it all adds up into making this appear to be an environmentally unfriendly project. The local lanes around for example the West Dean parish are not built to cope with these levels of traffic."

Residents are also angry that provision has been made for "tourists" but not for the local community. "This project cost half a million pounds and still local people have no cycle route between the main towns of Cinderford, Coleford and Lydney," said Sally Albrow, chairwoman of the West Dean parish council.

The problem will be difficult to solve for planners who are committed to developing cycle routes. Campaigners point out that these are supposed to reduce, not increase, traffic levels. Mark Tucker, chief land negotiator with Sustrans, a cycling think-tank which produced a report for Gloucestershire County Council in 1992 recommending the route, said it was inevitable that "people would drive and then cycle in inaccessible spots".

There are alternatives. The cycle route is only a short ride away from Chepstow rail station. Some rail firms have targeted cyclists as valuable customers and installed lockers at stations and cycle racks in carriages. However, many cyclists see rail travel as old-fashioned and inconvenient.



Off track: A cyclist riding through the Forest of Dean yesterday. However, local environmentalists are critical of riders who choose to travel to the area in cars and vans, rather than using public transport. They say the tranquillity of one of England's oldest forests has been shattered by the increased traffic levels and fumes from vehicles. Photograph: John Lawrence

## Death row millionaire may be set free

Ian Burrell

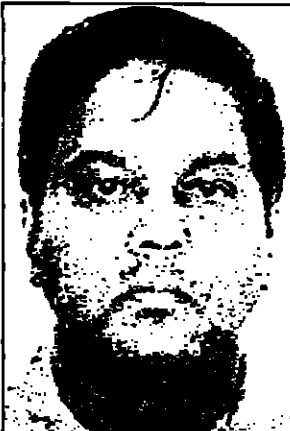
New evidence will be presented to a Florida court today which could help to free a British millionaire from death row.

Kris Maharaj, a once flamboyant businessman and racehorse owner, is facing death in the electric chair for shooting dead two Miami business associates in a hotel room in 1986.

But *The Independent* has learned that fresh evidence will be produced which, Maharaj's lawyers claim, links the killings to the brother of two men jailed for life for one of Britain's most notorious murders, when the wife of a newspaper executive was killed and her body fed to pigs in 1970.

Arthur and Nizamodeen Hossein each served 20 years for the murder of Muriel McKay and their notoriety was such that their warwork images were displayed in Madame Tussaud's Chamber of Horrors.

Documents put into court in Miami show that lawyers representing Maharaj will say that



Kris Maharaj: Lawyers will name the alleged killer

a third Hossein brother, Adam, should have been the primary suspect in the assassinations of the two businessmen. Derrick and Duane Moo Young.

Clive Stafford-Smith, the New Orleans-based British lawyer who specialises in representing death row prisoners, is preparing to unravel a com-

plicated tale of drug-dealing and double-crossing which he believes will free Maharaj.

He said last night: "The more work we have done on Kris's case, the more obvious it has become that he was rail-roaded. I am convinced that we can show that he was not the killer."

Mr Stafford-Smith has gathered evidence which he says will demonstrate that Maharaj, now 58, was cleverly framed.

He says he will show that Adam Hossein, who was a business associate of the Moo Youngs, ran a business with Nigel Bowe, a high-powered Bahamas-based lawyer who, in addition to his other business interests, was also working for the Medellín drugs cartel.

Bowe has since been jailed for drug trafficking, and Maharaj's legal team will argue that the murder of the Moo Youngs was the conclusion to a row over the laundering of drugs profits.

Maharaj's lawyers claim to have established that Mr Hossein, who was in debt to the Moo Youngs, went to the hotel

on the day of the killings armed with a silenced automatic pistol. They say they have also traced a telephone call he made that day to the room where the murders were carried out.

Like Maharaj he is Trinidad-born, of Indian extraction, and, according to the court papers, used to pose as Maharaj when he lived in England, in order to gain free entry to racecourses.

Adam Hossein was questioned but not charged over the McKay killing, which stemmed from a bungled attempt to kidnap the wife of Rupert Murdoch. Instead the 55-year-old wife of the newspaper executive Alick McKay was abducted.

Adam was with his brother Nizamodeen on the day of the murder and, after being called as a prosecution witness, told the court that Arthur had been sick in bed that day.

Arthur, now 58, is still being held in Britain and treated for mental problems while Nizamodeen has been released and has returned to Trinidad, where Adam is also believed to

be living after leaving America.

The main evidence against Maharaj was provided by Neville Butler, who claimed that he was forced into being an accomplice to the crime.

The prosecution claimed the double murder was carried out because Maharaj believed the Moo Youngs had cheated him in a \$400,000 property deal.

Maharaj said he had been lured to the hotel by Butler on the morning of the killing for a supposed business meeting. He said he was back at his office by the time the murders took place but an alibi witness was not called at the trial.

Following Maharaj's conviction, investigators from William Penn Life Insurance - the Moo Youngs had taken out \$1m life insurance policies - inquired into their deaths. They concluded that the killings were connected to a quarrel over the laundering of drugs money and that Maharaj had not been involved.

Following representations by Geoffrey Robertson QC, the

leading British human rights lawyer, the Florida Supreme Court accepted that there were entirely unfair and improper procedures at his trial, during which the judge was arrested on bribery charges.

Two years ago a Channel 4 documentary, *Murder in Room 1215*, cast further doubt on the conviction and prompted a plea to the Supreme Court from more than 100 MPs.

Today the new evidence will be provided at a post-conviction hearing in Dade County, Florida. The judge has the power to order a re-trial.

After 11 years on death row, Maharaj now has nothing to his name except his cheap watch and a few changes of underwear. He once owned a five-bedroom house with a swimming pool and two and a half acres in Fort Lauderdale. He lived in Britain for 25 years after arriving from the Caribbean and set up a fruit import business which by the end of the 1960s was a multi-million pound concern.



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## Banks urged to reveal Holocaust account details

Kathy Marks

British banks are being urged to follow the example of their Swiss counterparts and publish details of accounts into which Holocaust victims deposited their assets for safekeeping before the war.

Research by the Holocaust Educational Trust, published today, concludes that there may be as much as £700m, at current values, lying in dormant accounts in British banks, merchant banks and other financial institutions.

The report also says that the Government made it virtually impossible for survivors to reclaim their money af-

ter the war, by drawing up rigid rules that were unsympathetically enforced.

Lord Janner, chairman of the trust, called yesterday for a list to be published of all the original account holders and for the funds to be returned, with interest, to their descendants.

He has written to Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, urging action, and plans to raise the matter at a meeting of the World Jewish Restitution Organisation in New York this week.

"I have asked the Government and the banks to make full disclosure and restitution so far as it is possible," Lord Janner said yesterday. "There is still time to make amends."

According to a Granada Television *World In Action* programme tonight, British banks have started examining their records. The Government has also begun its own investigation.

Britain, together with Switzerland and the United States, was regarded as a safe haven for Jewish assets.

The research was carried out after the trust was contacted by Holocaust survivors and their families who had read about the Swiss banking scandal and believed they had claims in Britain.

Its report says unpublished public records show that funds deposited here by Jews from Germany, Romania, Hungary and Bulgaria, frozen during

the war, were then used to repay British trade creditors of those countries.

Responsibility for reimbursing the account holders was transferred by treaty to post-war Communist governments, although the British authorities knew that they would not honour the commitment. Bank accounts of other European Jews were simply unfrozen, with little prospect that the money would be claimed.

When claims were made, the British government insisted on proof that account holders had suffered Nazi persecution before releasing the funds.

Many were rejected because there was insufficient evidence of the death

of a parent in a concentration camp. People who had been in labour camps, or marooned in Communist countries after the war, were turned down.

Relatives of one woman, Alice Kirkheim, who committed suicide in Berlin rather than face questioning by the Gestapo, told *World In Action* that they were informed that they could not claim her British savings because she had never been "deprived of liberty".

The report says British banks have complied rigidly with the law and there is no evidence that they refused legitimate claims. But as with the Swiss banks, the onus was on individuals to locate the money.

# Mubarak and Hussein rally to Arafat's aid

Netanyahu and Hamas put squeeze on Palestinian leader ahead of US Secretary of State's visit

Patrick Cockburn  
Jerusalem

In an attempt to get the United States to take the initiative in defusing the growing crisis in relations between Israel and the Palestinians, Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, met King Hussein of Jordan and President Mubarak of Egypt in Cairo yesterday.

The meeting comes a few days before the first visit of Madeleine Albright as US Secretary of State to the Middle East, and reports that she will undertake no political initiative in the wake of the suicide bombings in Jerusalem last Thursday, which killed seven and wounded 192 people.

The aim of the mini-summit in Cairo will be to try to relieve some of the pressure on Mr Arafat, who is being squeezed between the conflicting demands of Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli prime minister, and Hamas, the Islamic militant organisation behind the suicide bombing campaign. For different reasons both Mr Netanyahu and Hamas would like to weaken Mr Arafat and undermine the Oslo accords.

"It is clear that the peace process and the occupied Palestinian territories are in a critical state," said Amr Moussa, the Egyptian Foreign Minister. He added: "Arabs have chosen the path of peace and they will stick to it, but it will have to be a peace that is just and balanced and based on implementing the principles agreed upon in [the 1991] Madrid [peace conference] and the Oslo accord."

Israel has arrested 170 Palestinians in the occupied territories while Israelis wait to see if there will be further bombs. The fact that three bombers took part in the last attack shows that Hamas is not short of volunteers willing to blow themselves up. Fearing further suicide attacks

few Israelis boarded buses during rush hour yesterday, though there are soldiers at every bus stop. Tourism, the largest industry in Jerusalem, has been badly damaged and most restaurants have empty tables and hotels empty rooms.

Mr Arafat says the attacks are orchestrated from outside the country, by which he means the Hamas leadership living abroad, but with control over some Hamas cells on the West Bank. In Jordan, security forces have arrested Ibrahim Goshie, the Hamas spokesman, who



Yasser Arafat: Attacks are arranged from outside Israel

has advocated more bombings. Summarising the Palestinian leader's dilemma, Ziyad Abu Amir, a member of the Palestinian legislature and a specialist on Hamas, said: "If he cracks down on militants, he risks his popularity, and if doesn't, the US and Israel could decide to dispose of him."

Although confident that he will face little pressure from the US to make concessions, Mr Netanyahu appears to be at a loss about how to stop the suicide bombings in Lebanon. Hizbollah guerrillas killed another Israeli soldier yesterday in an attack on a position in the Israeli occupation zone, bringing

to 31 the number of Israeli troops killed in combat this year, in addition to the 73 paratroopers who died when two helicopters collided.

The losses have led to renewed calls in Israel for a unilateral withdrawal from Lebanon. Even Ariel Sharon, the general who led the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982, wrote in the daily *Yedioth Aharnot* that one option was for Israel "to leave south Lebanon, according to a decision, plan and timetable of our own ... without any tie to talks with Syria, and without paying any diplomatic or security price to Syria in exchange for our pain in Lebanon."

Mystery still surrounds the circumstances in which a 16-member unit of Israeli naval commandos was ambushed between Tyre and Sidon in Lebanon early last Friday morning. Ten were killed, one is missing and four were wounded, one seriously. Only one commando survived unscathed to call in helicopters for evacuation during which Major Dagesh Maher, a doctor in the rescue unit, was also killed.

The Israeli press speculated yesterday about whether or not Hizbollah knew the commandos were coming, allowing them to place a bomb which killed many of the soldiers early on in the engagement. Hizbollah says the raiding party was detected as it came ashore. Third Petty Officer Imanur Ilya is still missing, presumed dead.

Mr Netanyahu has not put forward any new policies to stem the suicide bombings in Israel or the fighting in Lebanon. If both continue then he may start to pay a political price. "Palestinian terrorists have become so sophisticated that after a month of intensive investigation, we know nothing about them," wrote Hemi Shalev, a commentator in the daily *Ma'ariv*.



Shell shock: A fisherman clearing away some of the tons of rotting molluscs that litter the sandbanks during low tide in Le Croisic, Brittany. Millions of shellfish died during the hot weather and storms that swept western France this summer, creating an ecological and financial disaster for the local fishermen. Photograph: Reuters

# Taiwan mourns loss of the little friend stolen by big brother

Phil Davison  
Miami  
Stephen Vines  
Taipei

Aid is China's weapon to win the battle for influence and diplomatic recognition in the Caribbean basin

The Caribbean basin has become the frontline in the Cold War battles between two powerful countries half a globe away: China, and, well, China. The larger of these countries, whose capital is Peking, is locked in a struggle for diplomatic recognition with its island neighbour, which thinks of itself as the Republic of China, but which most of the rest of the world knows as Taiwan. It is an often-sordid war of bribes,

threats, diplomatic pressure and high-level visits as China seeks to oust Taiwan from its remaining diplomatic strongholds while the latter fights back with hard cash.

The island of St Lucia in the Lesser Antilles was the latest battlesite. Its new Labour government last week switched diplomatic allegiance from Taiwan to China, saying recognition of the former was "no longer tenable under international law". But the true reason had more to do with money.

China offered the island - population 150,000 - \$1m (£633,000) in immediate aid in the form of badly-needed school textbooks on an island where at least 30 per cent of people live below the poverty line. China and St Lucia also signed an economic co-operation agreement under which Peking will finance a new national stadium, a cultural centre, a four-lane highway and a free trade zone.

Explaining his government's decision to switch allegiance, the Prime Minister, Kenny Anthony, whose Labour Party ousted the long-ruling United Workers Party in June, said the role of Hong Kong was a factor. "Our commercial sector is now seeking new trading opportunities and new frontiers. Hong Kong is now the gateway to mainland China, with the vast trade possibilities which lie there. Taiwan can no longer provide the link with Hong Kong," he said.



In May, the Bahamas ousted Taiwan in favour of China after a Chinese-connected Hong Kong company signed a \$114m joint venture agreement for a container port project in Freeport.

But on the western rim of the Caribbean basin, in Panama and Nicaragua, Taiwan is faring better. Taiwanese President Lee

na, the canal's third biggest user in numbers of ships, may boycott the canal itself.

To cover their bets, some 50 Taiwanese investors are in Nicaragua this week looking into financing a project to rival the Panama Canal. The plan is to build an "inter-oceanic corridor," linking lakes, railways and roads between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. Such a corridor could save container shippers several days, compared with sailing further south to Panama, according to the project's supporters.

With St Lucia gone from the fold, Taiwan now has diplomatic relations with only about 30 countries, compared with about 160 for Peking. South Africa has said it is switching to China at the end of this year. Half of those who still recognise Taiwan are in the Caribbean or Central America but several of these are re-appraising the situation, particularly since the handover of Hong Kong to China.

In the Caribbean, Taiwan is left with Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Grenada, Haiti and Saint Christopher and Nevis. The African list, headed by Senegal, Liberia and Chad, is also something less than big-time. In Europe only the Holy See, which has problems with China's establishment of a rival Catholic church, recognises Taiwan.

Heading Taiwan's battle against diplomatic isolation is the International Co-operation

and Development Fund established last year with more than \$400m in the kitty. It does out soft loans, project financing for small and medium sized companies and has Costa Rica - Taiwan's biggest diplomatic ally - as its leading recipient.

"Taiwan can only pay money to buy friendship," said Tim Ting, a leading political commentator. China, on the other hand, can offer its far bigger market, political power as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council and its assistance in supplying arms.

However, while Taiwan is losing its smallest friends to the highest bidder it is actually making discreet but more substantive diplomatic progress with the bigger nations. European countries, including Britain, which do not recognise Taiwan, have nevertheless upgraded the level of their semi-official diplomatic representation.

"It's a dilemma," said Leng Tse-kang of the Institute of International Relations, Taipei's main foreign policy think tank. "Do we increase numbers, or enhance the substantive relationships with countries which do not recognise Taiwan?"

He thinks that the substantive relationships are more important, but the Taiwanese government is rather number obsessed.

It proved impossible to find a foreign ministry official who would discuss how St Lucia got away. Although the country is tiny, its very name seemed to send terror down the spines of officials who were most reluctant to say a thing about the loss of this little friend.

The sensitivity is understandable, coming from officials who regularly have to do battle just to be able to use their country's name at international gatherings and suffer the indignity of mass boycotts every time they show up anywhere, as President Lee Teng-hui is finding this week in Panama.

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## Kenyan police tear gas stops opposition rally

Kenyan police detained opposition MPs, broke up an open-air market and fired tear gas in the city of Kisumu yesterday to prevent an anti-government rally from taking place. Anti-riot police and a paramilitary unit sealed off the town centre and blocked the main road from the airport, where they held up at least five opposition MPs associated with the National Convention Assembly reform lobby. The NCA is campaigning for legal and constitutional reforms before elections later this year.

The rally in Kisumu, an opposition stronghold 190 miles (300km) north-west of the capital, Nairobi, was supposed to be the first in a series of demonstrations announced earlier this week. Reformists want President Daniel arap Moi, 74, in office for 19 years, to repeal colonial-era laws and enact constitutional reforms, without which, they argue, free and fair elections are impossible.

AP - Kisumu, Kenya

## Crucifixion for UAE murderers

A court in the United Arab Emirates has sentenced two men to be crucified in public and then executed for a series of murders, a justice ministry statement said.

It said that Majid Fakher Hussein Majeed, a UAE national, and Abdul Mehdi Karim Mushtaq, an Iranian, would be crucified today and executed tomorrow morning near the central prison of the oasis town of al-Ain.

The two had murdered five people in separate cases prior to 20 July 1995. The men lured the victims into remote desert areas, robbed them and then shot them dead, the ministry statement said.

Reuters - Abu Dhabi

## Comoros fails to subdue rebels

More than 30 people, including soldiers and secessionists, died in Comoros in a failed attempt to crush a separatist rebellion on Anjouan island, a Comoros Red Crescent official said yesterday.

The official spoke by telephone from the nearby island of Moheli shortly after a French radio station reported a preliminary death toll of 40 Comoran soldiers killed in the fighting on Wednesday and Thursday. The government of the embattled President, Mohamed Taki, has cut direct telephone links with Anjouan and has censored news about the fighting on Comoran state radio.

Reuters - Moroni

## 14 die on Kashmir borders

Heavy artillery exchanges between Indian and Pakistani border guards across the divided Himalayan state of Kashmir have killed 14 Pakistani villagers and injured 40, military officials said. They said that the casualties were in the village of Muzaffarabad and the Neelam Valley sector, which have been under heavy fire from Indian army artillery for the past two days.

AP - Muzaffarabad, Pakistan

## Hurricane Erica all at sea

Hurricane Erika stalled in the Atlantic Ocean, as nervous Leeward Islanders waited to see whether it would turn its 85-mph winds away from their shores. At 11am local time, Erika's eye hovered 220 miles north-east of San Juan Puerto Rico. An expected north or northwesterly track would take the storm safely away from land.

Reuters - San Juan

## Follow the Inca way, urges Peru

Peru urged the 90 countries at the eighth International Anti-Corruption Conference to adopt ancient Inca ethics as their guiding principles in fighting the modern "scourge of corruption". "We want to forge a new millennium based on the three Inca rules: do not steal, do not lie, do not be idle," said Blanca Colan, co-ordinator of the event.

Reuters - Lima

## Hot autumn: European states face testing times as they prepare for convergence

## Italy's body politic gets in shape for Emu

Andrew Gumbel  
Rome

Italy's Prime Minister, Romano Prodi, has a problem. If his country is to stand any chance of qualifying for the single European currency on time, he has to make painful cuts in welfare and pensions provisions by the end of the year. He understands the need for this, and so do his partners in government.

The trouble is, the government relies on the votes of the far-left party Rifondazione Comunista to make up a majority in the Chamber of Deputies, and Rifondazione - a notoriously unreliable negotiating partner at the best of times - is refusing to countenance any cuts in pensions. No wonder the commentators are predicting a "hot autumn".

This being Italy, however, the situation may not be as intractable as it looks - and certainly not as simple.

In the past few days Mr Prodi has received an unexpected offer of help from the opposition leader, Silvio Berlusconi. We will help you push through welfare reform, Mr Berlusconi promised, because there's no point sacrificing the future of the country for the petty squabbling of party politics.

A nice offer, was the reaction in government ranks, but can it be trusted? And what does Mr Berlusconi hope to gain in return?

The scene has been set for three months of high political intrigue and heart-stopping games-playing, in which no scenario seems too ridiculous and no political gambit too ambitious.

The general assumption is that Mr Berlusconi wants an amnesty on corruption cases in the courts - thus getting himself and a number of key colleagues out of some potentially very damaging trouble connected to his Fininvest business empire.

That prospect does not please Italy's magistrates, who last week requested that Mr Berlusconi's lawyer and

political henchman, Cesare Previti, have his parliamentary immunity lifted so that he can be slung in jail on charges of corruption and perverting the course of justice on behalf of his masters.

Nor does it please Mr Berlusconi's political partners, who do not see why they should have to bail out the government on a key plank of economic policy just to suit Mr Berlusconi's private business interests.

Throw into the equation the continuing attempts by parliament to reform Italy's unmanageable system of government - with all the petty interests that generates - and you have the ingredients for a very complex scenario indeed.

What will be the outcome? These are the most plausible options:

1. Mr Berlusconi gets his amnesty, or whatever it is he is looking for, Mr Prodi gets his welfare reform and the government lives to fight another day, albeit heavily weakened.
2. Mr Berlusconi supports the welfare reform but the Prodi government, forced to admit that it has lost its majority, resigns - leading in all probability to general elections.
3. Mr Prodi drops Rifondazione and invites some part of Mr Berlusconi's coalition into the government.

Number three has been ruled out so far by most government leaders but may yet become a last resort. Number one sounds a bit too cushy to be realistic. Number two is perhaps the one to bet on: Italy will get its welfare reform and qualify for the single currency, in whatever form it takes, but at the price of yet another government crisis and, very possibly, the third general election in four years.

The country may have exceeded all expectations in getting its public finances into shape for Europe, but politically it is still a long way off anything that could be described as maturity.



Crowning glory: Claudia Trieste, 18, from Giola Tauro in southern Italy, who won the Miss Italy title at the weekend. But will her country get in shape in time to qualify for the Emu beauty contest? Photograph: AFP

## Jobs crisis threatens plans for the single currency

Katherine Butler  
Brussels

European Union leaders are preparing for a special summit to address Europe's jobs crisis amid growing fears that failure to shorten the 18 million-strong dole queues could derail plans to launch the single currency on target, 16 months from now.

As Europe heads into a defining autumn for its most ambitious project, pressure to do more than wing hands about the unemployed is intensifying with the deadline for selecting the first batch of single currency members now just eight months away.

Decisions about how the euro is governed will have to be addressed when EU finance ministers meet next weekend while the European Commission's autumn economic forecasts are due towards the end of next month. These will indicate how Brussels sees deficits for 1997 - the year on which hopefuls will be judged - shaping up. Britain, now expected to meet the Maastricht entry conditions, will be asked to indicate by the end of the year whether it will definitely opt out of the first wave.

Meanwhile, the French pre-occupation with its own critical unemployment problem has forced jobs to the top of the EU's agenda. Leaders agreed to the special summit after the Socialist Prime Minister, Lionel Jospin, threatened to plunge the entire project into crisis at Amsterdam in June. Mr Jospin eventually agreed to sign up to the harsh public spending limits required by Economic and Monetary Union (Emu) after winning a promise that unemployment would be tackled as a priority.

But there is deep reluctance to play up hopes for the Luxembourg summit scheduled for mid-November, reflecting the acute dilemma facing EU governments.

Single currency enthusiasts are aware that "selling" the euro to a sceptical public means that they must convince people it will bring prosperity and jobs. But the harsh disciplines imposed by monetary union rule out spending more money on job creation

Unemployment forcing its way on to the agenda as EU members face deadline pressure

## Countdown to Emu qualifying date

8-9 September: Agriculture ministers hold first debate on Agenda 2000 proposals for radical reform of EU farm policy.

12-14 September: Finance ministers meet to discuss how euro will be governed and to open negotiations on future financing of Union after 1999.

24 September: France unveils its 1998 budget showing how it intends to slash the national deficit to meet Maastricht criteria.

25-26 October: Foreign ministers to decide timetable for negotiating enlargement to eastern Europe.

1 November: European Commission releases autumn economic forecasts.

Mid-November: EU leaders hold special jobs summit.

End December: Summit marking handover of EU presidency from Luxembourg to Britain. British government to say whether UK will join Emu in 1999.

1 January: Britain takes over six-month presidency coinciding with the opening of EU enlargement negotiations.

Spring 1998: Dates vote on Amsterdam treaty.

Decision on number states qualifying for Emu takes place based on 1997 economic figures.

if the 1999 timetable is not to slip. And for borderline countries like France, just getting to the starting blocks on time will mean further belt-tightening and with it the prospect of more public sector job losses in the short term.

Last week Mr Jospin and the German Chancellor, Helmut Kohl, moved to dispel doubts about their joint commitment to the launch of the common currency on time. German political leaders also rallied to quell talk of a possible delay sparked by remarks made by the Bundesbank president, Hans Tietmeyer.

But already, the promised jobs summit looks certain to expose the ideological tensions among member states over how to get people back to work: US-style deregulation to encourage entrepreneurship versus pumping more money into skills training and giving more power to Brussels to co-ordinate employment policies.

A first meeting of the European Commission after the summer recess last week foreshadowed the debate. The United Kingdom's Leon Brittan and Germany's Martin Bangemann argued that excessive regulation, blamed by business for strangling job creation must be on the agenda. This angered an opposing camp led by social af-

fairs commissioner Padraig Flynn who insisted that the summit must not be an excuse to authorise "wholesale deregulation".

Luxembourg's Prime Minister Jean Claude Juncker, whose country holds the EU presidency, has controversially suggested giving a new role to the European Investment Bank to fund training or job-creation initiatives. He also wants the summit to set ambitious targets to boost the numbers in training.

Currently only one in ten of the unemployed are on training schemes.

But the prospect of any additional public spending will raise hackles in Bonn which is struggling to cut its deficit to the maximum 3 per cent of GDP allowed

for Emu candidates and may even propose shrinking its own contribution to the EU budget at the next meeting of finance ministers on 12 September.

An ambitious timetable for enlargement of the bloc into eastern Europe, meanwhile, has been mapped out with negotiations due to begin with some or all of the 10 applicants from January when Britain takes over the EU presidency.

The European Commission has recommended accession negotiations with Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovenia, Estonia as well as Cyprus, but governments have only until the end of the year to overcome deep divisions on the pace of accession and on which candidates they want open talks with.

Here again by failing to match their political rhetoric on enlargement with realistic groundwork the EU leaders have stored up trouble. At Amsterdam they shelved decisions on the internal reforms which must precede enlargement.

Negotiations on Agenda 2000, the sweeping package of reforms designed to reform the bloc's budget and its costly farm and regional development policies ahead of enlargement are also about to begin but the signs are not promising.

Agriculture ministers meet in Luxembourg from tomorrow for the first round of talks on a radical farm reform plan, but those countries whose farmers benefit most from handouts, including Germany, have already voiced firm resistance to Commission proposals to slash guaranteed prices by 30 per cent.

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Britain, says the Demos think-tank, should glory in its modernity, its success in sport, trade and finance, its creativity and diversity  
Photomontage: Julian Saul



We're confused about who we are and so other countries think the worse of us.  
**Mark Leonard**, author of an important new report, argues for a new national identity

# Britain needs a new brand image

In the past Britain's image abroad was second to none. It might often have been resented but its industrial and military prowess was always respected. Today, that identity is confused and outdated, or, in many parts of the world, simply non-existent. Poor weather, unfriendly and arrogant people, sloppy food, terrorism, poverty, draughty houses, ubiquitous dirt and arcane rituals are the key images that foreigners have of Britain.

Our economy and companies suffer from an equally negative image. Despite 18 years of Thatcherism, Britain is seen as a strike-ridden by nearly half of Fortune 500 companies. Under 40 per cent of Japanese companies think Britain encourages free enterprise. The image of our companies lags far behind the rest of Europe, the United States and Japan, scraping barely half the Japanese score on every attribute. The general image of Britain is as a country whose time has come and gone.

But if our image abroad is poor, it simply reflects our own confusion about what being British stands for. The first thing to remember is how we got here. Far from being the product of 1,000 years of unbroken continuity, Britain and Britishness were constructed in the 18th and 19th centuries. A combination of patronage, common threats and consciously invented national institutions and traditions such as parliament, the monarchy and the British Army shaped a powerful and compelling identity.

Today there is a lack of resonance in the idea of Britain as a land of great and stable institutions, the imperial nation, the industrial powerhouse, home of the English language, the Protestant nation, the inventor and dominator of sports. Faith in our own institutions has plummeted. Barely 30 per cent think Britain will have a monarchy in 50 years time. Only 10 per cent have confidence in parliament. The Empire, which barely 50 years ago boasted 800 million people, today includes only 168,000 (excluding the UK population). Only 1 in 20 is proud of our economic achievements. Many companies, such as British Telecom and British Home Stores, are so embarrassed by their Britishness that they have dropped the British from their names. Dixon's own brand MATSUI is meant to sound Japanese. Protestantism is on the wane and we are regularly beaten at the sports we invented.

But coinciding with this trauma has been an explosion of national confidence in the arts, fashion, technology, architecture, design – even our

sports are undergoing a revival. A gulf is developing between the reality of Britain in the late 1990s and our image abroad and at home. It is time for Britain to renew its identity.

The key argument is economic. Most of us will pay more for products from some countries than from others. We pay over the odds for consumer electronics from Japan, food products from Italy, engineering from Germany. A survey of 200 of the world's largest companies showed that 72 per cent see national image as important when they make purchasing decisions.

Many people object to the idea of nations having a brand. They claim that national identities are complex and that it would be wrong for anyone to manage them. But nations have been recreating their identities

aloud, titled diplomatic envoys, tourist advertising displays of thatched pubs and classic cars and card-board cut-out Beef-eaters at trade fairs.

The key to renewing identity is to define an ethos or story that is unique to the company or country and rooted in reality. Britain needs a story which makes sense of where we have come from, reflects the best of what we are and makes a strong statement about where we are going. Our research found six stories which fit these criteria.

The first is of Britain the global hub: a place where goods, messages and ideas are exchanged, a bridge between Europe and America, North and South, East and West. Britain is the fifth largest trading nation in the world, exporting more per head than the United States and Japan. The

houses most of the world's religions. Indian restaurants now have a higher turn-over than coal, steel, and shipbuilding combined.

The fourth story is of a nation of buccaneering entrepreneurs. Napoleon's "nation of shop-keepers" comment is more true today than ever before. Britain has more shop workers than either France or Germany. Eight out of the ten of the most profitable European retailers are British. Companies such as the Body Shop lead the world in ethical trading.

The fifth story is of Britain as the silent revolutionary, constantly inventing new forms of organisation and new ways of running society. Britain has led the world in non-violent change, quietly creating new ways of life then re-inventing them.

Britain was first in – and first out – of the industrial revolution. It was the first country to carry out democratic nationalisation and privatisation. British-style constitutions and parliamentary democracy, army, welfare states, universities and a host of modern sports have been invented here and copied throughout the world.

The final story is of a nation of fairplay and support for the underdog. The Welfare State and modern charity are central to the way Britain sees itself and conducts its business. Live Aid, Band Aid and Children in Need have pioneered new forms of fundraising. Half of all adults take part in some form of voluntary activity each year.

Together these stories provide a toolkit for renewing Britain's identity. Just as the identity forged 200 years ago was born out of public debate, today we need the widest possible discussion of what Britishness is. But as well as a common story, we need strong mechanisms to project and manage our identity effectively.

The Prime Minister should chair a Vision Group to agree and oversee the British Brand. A working party should be established with representatives from all the agencies involved in promoting Britain abroad to ensure that consistent messages are used. A Promoting Britain Unit should be set up in the Cabinet Office to track the performance of the British Brand. It should disseminate best practice, commission activities, encourage partnerships and provide support for cities and regions. Agencies projecting Britain to the world should adopt new approaches to recruitment and organisation to become more entrepreneurial, more creative, more representative of Britain's contemporary diversity.

The third story is of Britain the hybrid nation, mixing diverse elements together into something new. It is not a melting pot moulding disparate identities into a conformist whole but a country which thrives on diversity and uses it constantly to renew and re-energise itself. Britain has over 3 million people who describe themselves as non-white and

the millennium provides an ideal opportunity to project a new image of Britain to the world. There are many powerful ways to project these new stories – our trade marks for the next century. For example we could make points of entry and exit into Britain express our renewed identity by housing art exhibitions, museums and libraries in airports and stations, so providing visitors with a stunning welcome to the country.

In the future the main ports of entry will be via on-line computers. We should create a Digital Britain web site which

includes art and discussion groups alongside detailed listings and tourist information. Our government buildings around the world should be redesigned to act as a showcase for Britain as a creative island, reflecting the best of British design and architecture. We could also review stamps, letterheads and official documents to achieve a better mix between old and new. The Government should issue a challenge to highlight the best educational practices and institutions, the most innovative social entrepreneurs and the best city improvements using

the Design Council's Millennium Products campaign as a model.

In Greenwich itself we should build a living museum of the future or Millennium City to act as a showcase for the future of health, learning, retailing and democracy. We could also establish a fairplay web site accessible in all places associated with the millennium to give people immediate access to opportunities for volunteering and mentoring – both at home and abroad.

Renewing Britain's identity is not about shedding the past but finding a better fit between

our heritage and our future. Two hundred years ago our ancestors constructed a new identity that proved enormously successful. They pioneered new institutions, new images and new ways of thinking, free from sentimental attachment to the traditions they inherited. Today we need to do the same again.

"Britain: Renewing our identity", by Mark Leonard (£5.95), is published tomorrow by Demos, 9 Brixton Place, London EC4V 6AP. tel 0171-333 4479. The project was funded by the Design Council.

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## arts



Caryl Churchill's 'Blue Heart' (left) picked up a First Fringe at Edinburgh this year, while audiences queued round the block to see Mark Ravenhill's 'Shopping and Fucking' (inset); but Out of Joint, the company behind these productions, cannot survive without funding, say its founder Max Stafford-Clark and producer Sonia Friedman (above). Photographs: Emma Boam; Geraint Lewis; Tristram Kenton.

The Monday Interview



Deborah Rows

SARAH BRIGHTMAN

# Making drama out of a crisis

"It is possible to do good work within the establishment. But if you want to do something exceptional, that possibility is increased if you create your own company." Max Stafford-Clark should know. One of this country's most important theatre directors, he has done it not once, but twice.

In 1973 he, David Aukin (now head of Channel 4 Film) and the playwright David Hare co-founded Joint Stock, a uniquely collaborative company which pioneered a collective approach to the creating and performing of new writing by such major talents as Hare himself, Caryl Churchill, Barrie Keeffe and Howard Brenton. Twenty years later, Stafford-Clark did it again when he left the Royal Court and co-founded Out of Joint.

"I did it in a state of innocence, which is just another word for ignorance," he comments wryly. "I don't think I was quite aware of the risks."

Just three and a half years later, the company has made a lasting impact on new writing in this country, commissioning and touring new plays, several of which have gone on to international success. They have been nominated for 20 awards and walked away with 13 of

them. Long-lived companies on a similar scale like Theatre de Complicite or Cheek by Jowl would be satisfied with one hit at a time, but a quick glance at this year's activities alone gives you some impression of the extraordinary scale of Out of Joint's work.

In January, New York critics were heaping hyperbolic praise upon Sebastian Barry's *The Steward of Christendom*. The subsequent sell-out season at Brooklyn Academy of Music, the city's most prestigious theatre, was the longest the venue had ever booked outside of Peter Brook's *Mahabharata*. *Steward* had already played London, Dublin, Brighton, Liverpool and Luxembourg, not to mention Australia and New Zealand. Back home, audiences were queuing round the block for Mark Ravenhill's first full-length play, *Shopping and Fucking*. Meanwhile, the company was already in rehearsal for the tour of a third party, April de Angelis's *The Positive Hour*.

Their annual turnover is edging towards £1m. Their guaranteed annual subsidy from the Arts Council? A paltry £65,000. That pays for just two salaries and a marketing strategy. What about applying to the National Lottery? The arts are swimming in money these days, aren't

they? If you have a building to upgrade, the answer is probably yes, but a company committed to touring has no need for a building. Under existing rules, lottery money can be poured into bricks and mortar but cannot be spent on the real business of paying actors and writers to put on plays.

At the Arts Council's own suggestion, Out of Joint did apply for money from the much-vaunted, one-off Arts for Everyone scheme. They were turned down.

Admittedly, you have to be an optimist to work in the arts in this country, but there are limits. As far as Stafford-Clark and his producer Sonia Friedman are concerned, they've reached them. "We can't go on," she says simply. "We keep falling at the final hurdle." Her frustration is more than understandable. Theatres need to book seasons way in advance and the climate demands long-term development strategies, but with no guaranteed fund-

ing, planning and structuring commissions and productions for an independent company like this is well-nigh impossible. Their track record is a testament to their tenacity. "We've had a lot of patience from theatres but we simply cannot match the administrative support of companies like Complicite." Comparisons are, of course, invidious, but it is salutary to note that they receive about a third of Complicite's funding. The success of *Steward* has kept them afloat for a year but a new writing company cannot rely on commercial success for its survival. Friedman has conjured up £150,000 from foundations over the years but if you're presenting challenging plays with titles like *Shopping and Fucking*, corporate sponsorship is out of the question.

Back in the glory days of the Seventies, Joint Stock was awarded annual funding within 18 months. When Stafford-Clark and Friedman dreamed up Out of Joint, they met the Arts Council's head of drama. Their ambition was to be fully funded within three years. Four years on, they are no nearer that goal. In the interim, they have had to go cap in hand to persuade the (separate) touring department to fund each individual play. Fortunately, that department has continually smiled upon them, hence their continued existence. Actors are contracted on the basis that the company hopes to receive money. They have an education

programme running alongside each production but no money with which to pay anyone to co-ordinate or run it. This is no way to run a business.

Their other means of survival has been a series of co-production deals, whereby other theatres help finance and resource productions. They have played 54 weeks at the Royal Court, an advantageous situation which has its problems. Unlike companies with a permanent style which audiences recognise and return to, a new writing company reinvents itself to cater to each playwright it produces. Audiences have little sense of its identity or even its name, which has led many to see successive Out of Joint shows like *The Libertine*, *The Steward of Christendom* and *Shopping and Fucking* as Royal Court successes, which is only partly true. The last of those has just ended a West End transfer, the idea of which met with prophecies of doom from many industry insiders. At the height of the heatwave, it played to 92 per cent capacity. It then headed off for similar success at the Edinburgh festival where Out of Joint also opened Caryl Churchill's double-bill *Blue Heart*, picking up rave reviews and a Fringe First.

The rampant diversity of those plays in both tone and content, not to mention the difference in terms of experience of their authors, is instructive. One of the justifiable criticisms levelled at Stephen Daldry's

Court is that it has focused too narrowly on new writers at the expense of more mature talent. It is, after all, easy to programme "promise". Lack of substance and/or technical skill can be dismissed with talk of possible future fulfilment. Stafford-Clark consciously balances the encouragement of raw talent with great new plays by experienced writers, "the ones which will be seen as the watermark of a generation".

He also has little patience with the tired critical complaint of the death of the "great political plays" of the Sixties onwards. "Those were black and white plays about certainties, but people are now constantly shifting through shades of grey. At the end of the Thatcher era, writers, directors and other fellow travellers involved with ideas of socialism and feminism began to question themselves. It is no longer a world of fixed ideologies. *The Positive Hour* is a political play, an assessment of how beneficial and rigid feminism can become." Plays are both a prisoner and a reflection of their age. *Shopping* could be seen as just one of a wave of works about dysfunction, kids in an urban jungle.

"It ends with a moment of limited optimism but, yes, it is part of that. Our first job is to reflect an age. If our age is about a lack of confidence then that's what you reflect." To a degree, Churchill's emotionally acute, powerfully controlled *Blue Heart* runs on par-

allel (though radically dissimilar) lines.

Stafford-Clark agrees that much of his artistic vision is a continuation of his Joint Stock days. "The ethos and aesthetic are similar... a curiosity about the world, the observation of life. That's what I learnt from Bill Gaskill, that research and study of detail does pay off in the writing and acting." He contrasts it with the New York scene. "The trouble there is that everyone's ambitious. That's fine. Everyone's talented, fine. And that's all it is. There has to be another ingre-

been offered. Friedman looks back at their accomplishments with an almost defiant pride. "We have very quietly reaffirmed the importance of new writing around the country. That hasn't been spotted. Outside London, theatres see us on a level with Cheek by Jowl or Shared Experience which have been going for 13 years or more. We've done it in two or three years. Bookers don't ever ask us 'who's in it?' They trust our judgement."

Stafford-Clark, too, adopts a confident tone. "The definition of cynicism is when you try



dent: grit. And some purpose. If you have that then you're attempting to comment on the life you lead." Out of Joint want to tour their latest commission, Sebastian Barry's *Our Lady of Shiloh* with Sinead Cusack, due at the National in April. They will also revive *Our Country's Good*, Timberlake Wertenbaker's uplifting modern classic about a group of convicts in Australia in 1789 putting on a restoration comedy. All this is in jeopardy unless realistic funding is secured. The Arts Council's drama panel meets in three days' time to consider their case. The head of drama has told them their need for long-term support is recognised but, as yet, no money has

and arrange new work to suit the public. Neither *Steward*, a dangerously untheatrical work about an obscure moment in Irish history, or *Shopping*, a dangerously provocative play about young people doing horrible things, seemed in prospect to have their finger on the pulse of fame and popular success. He pauses, then adds, possibly nodding towards the Arts Council: "Doctor Success is a cure for all evils in the theatre but he doesn't come all the time, but that's the way of it." *Shopping and Fucking* is on tour; *Blue Heart* is at the Royal Court Downstairs at the Duke of York's, London WC2 (0171-565 5000) from 17 Sept-18 Oct and then tours.

## The Impact of Fees

Higher Education Funding after Dearing

Tuesday 9 September 1997 Cumberland Hotel, London W1

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THE INDEPENDENT

In association with the Independent and Independent on Sunday

## Musical splendour on a day of mourning

Music played an important part in the funeral service of Diana, Princess of Wales. The selection was iconoclastic and movingly in tune with the occasion. By Anthony Payne

In what was the most deeply impressive and, indeed, harrowing emotional public event any of us are likely to experience in our lifetimes, it was touching to observe the part that music played in the proceedings. The Westminster Abbey funeral service, which had been designed to reflect Princess Diana's special significance for all of us, assembled an iconoclastic sequence of pieces drawn from sources as widely contrasted as the grand, formal and traditional Purcell and Croft, 19th-century hymnody, the romantic and modern choral traditions, and contemporary pop in both hymn and song. It was populist, but never cheap, in content, and it was the reworking of Elton John's famous "Candle in the Wind", bravely sung by its composer under great emotional stress, that captured the imagination of most of the people interviewed after the event on BBC1. This was understandable, but no less movingly in tune with the occasion were the closing sequence from Verdi's *Requiem*, John Tavener's *Song for Athene*, whose incandescent, almost Holstian climax brought the service to a majestic close, and Holst's own *I vow to thee, my country*, one of the Princess's favourite hymns. The music director Martin Neary deserves greatest credit for the musical splendour of the service. Later in the day, a change of pro-



Incandescent climax: 'Song for Athene' by John Tavener (left) brought the funeral service to a majestic close. Photograph: Clive Bara

gramme, which must have chimed in with the mood and feelings of music lovers everywhere on a deeply stirring day, brought Faure's *Requiem* to Saturday evening's promenade concert, a tender and intimate tribute to Princess Diana. The broader dramatic canvas of the final section of Verdi's *Requiem* had provided a fitting contribution to her funeral service, but now Faure's touching masterpiece exerted its extraordi-

nary power to save and transfigure. Galvanised by the poignancy of the occasion, David Atherton, with the BBC National Orchestra and Chorus of Wales, City of Birmingham Symphony Chorus and soloists Judith Howarth and Neal Davies, drew a marvellous performance of the work. This is music whose subdued poetry is never passive, and its glowing spirituality stems from a position of creative strength. Atherton and his forces responded with the paradoxical combination of mildness and forthrightness, reticence and passion, which reveals the heart of Faure's vision. A powerful drama could quickly erupt out of lyric gentleness in the middle of the "Libera Me" and just as swiftly retire into civilised mourning. The interpretation as a whole gripped the imaginations of those many listeners who might have felt they had little more to give after the day's highly charged events.

Nor was there to be any let up after the interval, for the electrifying intensity of the young Rachmaninov's *First Symphony* drew playing of overwhelming onset and emotional directness. This is an astonishingly original work, and that perceptive analyst Robert Simpson made a convincing case for it being the greatest of the composer's symphonic works. Its wild unorthodoxes - a scherzo which magically opens as if it is a slow movement, an apparently triumphant final coda which turns on its axis to become a tragic calamity and a first movement of unexpected yet superbly controlled contrasts - kept us on the edge of our seats. And so did this commanding interpretation. John Tavener's *Song for Athene* is available on the CD 'Innocence' (Sony Classical SK66613).

Oh God, m



# Wrapped up in her gift

## The Monday Interview



Deborah Ross  
talks to  
**SARAH BRIGHTMAN**

**S**arah Brightman's had her hair cut off. It's now a short, Betty Rubble-style bob that goes straight to the ears then flicks up with a bit of a whoosh! Very perky. And she likes it a good deal, too. "I feel much more open, much more free," she says. "I had come to rely on my hair." You hid behind it, you mean? "Yes. It was the first thing people always noticed about me. They were always saying: 'Sarah, you have such beautiful, luscious hair.' Lucky you! "Yes. But it was beginning to thin.

She is wearing quite a saucy little chocolate, lacy shift thingie under a black coat-dress. Her shoes are flat, black lace-ups. Overall, the effect is part goer, part schoolgirl. She isn't wearing any make-up and looks much the better for it. Quite childlike and pink-cheeked and normal-eyed. She is much sexier when she isn't trying to be sexy than when she is. Could we photograph her like this?

No, she says, she'd rather not. Her fans, she continues, would be horrified. They expect her to be glamorous and mascaraed and saucer-eyed and big-haired. She'll be wearing wigs on stage. "My fans want me with my hair. They love the image. This is the thing about the work I do. A lot of it is to do with fantasy. I don't want to see pictures of Hollywood stars in their dressing gowns taking out the rubbish. It ruins the fantasy."

Ask those who don't indulge in the fantasy what they think of Sarah Brightman and the picture that emerges is that she's a bit of a cunning man-trap with a (former) fright wig hair-do, an unnaturally high voice and something of a sticky-out, honey-eyed look, which may or may not be the price you pay for having had sexual relations with Andrew Lloyd Webber.

Of course these are not nice things to say about anybody. But what do I say now I've met her? I say it's not hard to see why she arouses suspicion, frankly. By this, I don't mean she is unpleasant. Or thick. Or boring. She is actually quite intriguing in a New Age, out-with-the-fairies sort of way.

Her father committed suicide five years ago but that's OK, she says. "I've thought it was the right thing to do it was, and I've only ever had good feelings about it." He was a property developer who built up a successful company from nothing. He was, she says, a very intelligent man but quite introverted. If he expressed himself, he did so through his business. When he was found dead in a fume-filled golf GTI, he'd been divorced from his wife, Paula, for five years, and his business was going down the tubes. It was the last that did him in, she reckons.

"He was a very intense man who might have had a lot of anger in him. He was very shy. He could listen and digest things but he couldn't ever come out and say what he thought."

"He was obsessed by his business. When everything he had worked for tumbled, the thought of getting it back was something he didn't want to deal with. Knowing him, he thought about it very carefully. He thought, if from now on I'm going to be a misery to myself and others there is no point in being here. He needed peace. He was tired. He did the right thing, and an incredibly brave thing. Priests are going to want to kill me, aren't they? But I can't in any way condemn him. When he died, I had no angst, only a good feeling. It wasn't horrible." Does she remember the last conversation they ever had? "Yes. He said: 'Sarah, please don't do any more pop records.



Sarah Brightman: 'My fans want me with my hair. They love the image. A lot of it is to do with fantasy'

Photograph: Alpha

Please do classical. It's what you do best."

It might seem like a cold response but perhaps she just won't allow herself angst because it would get in the way too much of her Gift. She bangs on and on about being An Artist with A Great Gift. (Of course she is referring to her voice rather than the £6m divorce settlement she got from Andrew.)

Her marriage to Andrew failed because of the Gift. He wanted a wife and babies. She wanted to tour and record, then "tour some more." "If you know you have A Great Gift, you have to follow it." She was teased a lot at school not because she was irritating, but because "I was very gifted and there was jealousy." Of course, I do not have the heart to tell her that when her Gift goes on my CD player the cats shoot right out of the cat flap and refuse to return. Cynics carp that if Sarah hadn't married Andrew she wouldn't have amounted to much. Preposterous, I know. And as she stresses: "What you have to remember is that I was already established before I met Andrew." As she was. After a fashion.

At 16 she was a member of Pan's Peo-

ple, the group of girl dancers that in their heyday had branched around *Top of the Pops*. At 17 she was in *Hot Gossip*, another group of girls that did exactly the same thing. At 18 - in fishnet tights and a spangly leotard thing - she got to Number Five in the charts with "I Lost My Heart to a Starship Trooper". At 20, she auditioned for *Cats* and met Andrew. At 24 they married. At 26 she was starring as Christine in *Phantom of the Opera*, a role he'd written especially for her. Would she have gone from "Starship Trooper" to the West End without becoming Mrs Lloyd Webber in between? Yes, possibly.

Certainly, she has not done at all badly since her divorce from Andrew seven years ago. One year, she was the most successful touring act in the States after the Rolling Stones. Her latest single, "Time to Say Goodbye", topped the charts all over Europe and went platinum five times. She began a national tour last week which will be going on until October. So she has her fans, and earns very nicely in her own right.

Indeed, she has never touched a penny of Andrew's £6m and doesn't intend to. She has tried giving it back to him but "he refuses to take it". She is now thinking of giving it away to good causes. She doesn't consider she ever properly earned it, she says, and can't think what she might spend it on. "I don't want to lie on a beach in Mauritius for a year." Annoyingly, she seems to have some integrity.

Now 37, she lives quite modestly, mostly in Germany with her German record producer boyfriend of four years. It's his flat. The only property she now owns is a small place in London. No, she doesn't miss all the sumptuous homes she had when she was married to Andrew. "They were beautiful. He has beautiful taste, a real love for art and architecture and furniture. He's living out the life he loves. But I think if you have a lot of things they end up ruling you rather than you ruling them, even if you have people to look after them. It's not a responsibility I like." Does she have any extravagances? "Well, every now and then I buy an amazing piece of jewellery and put it in the bank." You don't wear it? "No. Are you bonkers? No. It's like somebody who loves art. There are some things you have just got to have."

She was born in Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, the oldest of six children to Paula and Granville Brightman. Paula, who had been very keen on amateur dramatics prior to marriage and motherhood, took Sarah along to her first ballet class at three. No, insists Sarah, her mother wasn't pushy or frustrated or living vicariously through her. She loved ballet from day one. Her first ambition was to be a dancer. "My mother's a wonderful woman, and it's not just me that thinks so. People are always coming up to me and saying they've met my mother, isn't she lovely? We are very close. She's a very spiritual person, a deep-thinker, and very giving."

At 11, she was dispatched to a stage boarding school because, dance-wise, she'd done all she could locally. She hated it. She remembers her first night. "It was a small room with two bunks in it. I cried continually and went to the loo every hour. I just wanted to go home." Things didn't get much better. She found it hard to make friends and was teased a lot. "Because I was so gifted - because I had a voice and was a good dancer - there was a lot of jealousy." She ran away once but her father talked her into going back. "He said it's up to you. You can go to a normal school. Or you can go to this school and follow through what you want to do." She stuck to the boarding school. So even as a schoolgirl her personal unhappiness wasn't allowed to interfere with her ambition.

She was expected to join the Royal Ballet, but failed the audition. She doesn't know why. "Everyone expected me to get in because of my Gift." She was devas-

tated, yes, then ended up in Pan's People. Pan's People weren't much fun because it was after their *Top of the Pops* peak (they'd been replaced by Legs & Co) and it was just her and Babs and Dee-Dee going around the provinces doing rubbish dance routines. *Hot Gossip* was much better because "it was more interesting, and Arlene Phillips was fanatical about training". Having the hit with *Starship* was great. "I was elated. I enjoyed the success very much. Any money I received I blew on cars and clothes. I didn't realise you had to pay tax." However, her second record flopped.

"That felt dreadful. And I was out of work for quite a while. That's when I started taking things more seriously." When she first met Andrew, he was married to someone else as, in fact, she was. But her first marriage, she says,

doesn't merit talking about because it was a silly, impetuous thing. Anyway, she and Andrew both divorced and then married each other. Now, what you want to know, I suspect, is whether she married him just to give her career the Big Push it so desperately needed at that time.

No, I don't think so. I don't think she could ever be so cunning, at least not consciously. Was it love then? In a way, yes, it probably was.

I mean here was Sarah, a young thing with A Great Gift that needed recognising. And here was Andrew, one of the world's best-known, most successful composers, sitting up and taking notice, doing that recognising.

How could she be expected to resist? Why, even, would she want to resist? It must have felt heavenly. It must have felt like love. Trouble was, Sarah was rubbish as a wife.

"I can't be a wife. I'm not that sort of person. Wives have to compromise all the time. I knew I had a Gift and had to follow that Gift. I wrapped myself in cotton wool and did what I knew I had to do. I tried to do both, but couldn't make it work." Ultimately, they divorced on the grounds of his adultery with a woman called Madeleine, who became the third and latest Mrs Lloyd Webber. Madeleine did not have a Gift and liked horses and babies. Yes, Andrew wanted children with Sarah. "Andrew loves children." But Sarah didn't want any, and still doesn't. "I just don't have the yearning," she says. Plus, of course, they'd get in the way rather.

In conclusion what, I suppose, you most want to know is whether Sarah Brightman's just a two-bit dancer who Got Lucky or something rather more. To be honest, I'm not entirely sure.

Does her Gift leave her any space to have fun? "God, this is going to sound terrible, but nothing. I have my boyfriend and a couple of good friends and a little sister, who lives with me, but I don't have time for anything else. My work is my hobby. I love music. You do have to be fairly selfish when you have a Gift. You can't afford to let too many outside things get in the way."

## 'Oh God, not more flowers,' said my four-year-old daughter

**L**ast week's events exposed the children to something we had managed to shield them from all their lives - the Royal Family. "Who's that?" asked my 10-year-old, prodding the Duke of Edinburgh on the front page. "And who's Edward?" they wanted to know. My four-year-old was visibly shocked at the Queen was on *Newsround* that the Queen was going to fly down to London. "How can she do that?" "Hastily, I explained that royalty didn't come with God-given wings and that she would fly in an aeroplane, but I had missed the point entirely. "No, I mean how can she fly when she's dead?" raged my confused and media-stricken daughter.

When I was a child, the Queen exerted a certain fascination - inasmuch as we

all wanted to know whether this woman who wore dressing-up box clothes went to the lavatory like ordinary people. (Of course not, was the answer.) Which all goes to show just how much the monarchy really has changed over the years; children don't have a clue who they are and we now know that the Queen definitely does go to the lavatory. Only she takes her crown off first.

Scenes of weeping children in their parents' arms at the funeral shamefully brought out the competitive parent in me. Would my children cry for Diana, would they empathise with William and Harry - or had I bred unfeeling little monsters? Strongly suspecting the latter, we sat them in front of the television with us, my four-year-old

daughter acting as chief tissue bearer. "Try not to think about it," she advised with all the accumulated second-hand wisdom of her four years as she mopped up my tears. But generally they watched with a kind of detached fascination and took their emotional cues from their father. "Why's that horse keep kicking one leg to the side?" asked my 10-year-old as the cortege turned out of Kensington Palace. "That's the gay one," replied my husband "and the one behind's the motherless one -" redeeming himself

in my eyes only during the singing of "Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer" when a few tears trespassed down his cheeks. (That's public school for you...) The children, however, remained steadfastly dry-eyed. And perhaps rightly so. One of the most tasteless aspects of broadcasting last week was the milking of children for emotion. Shortly before the funeral the BBC hauled a young boy with cerebral palsy, who had met Diana at the opening of the centre for conductive education in

Birmingham. What was she like, asked the interviewer, settling back for the usual childish tributes to beauty and goodness. "I can't remember," pronounced the boy with an embarrassed grin. Come on now, persisted the interviewer barely able to repress a scolding tone in her live panic, I'm sure you can remember something. Time and again she prodded, phrasing the question in different ways and each time drawing the same stoic response - "I can't remember."

So looking again at those scenes of children weeping, I can't help wondering if the camera stage-managed some of their grief. Maybe this is just the competitive parent in me again, unable to believe that others

have managed to instil a sensitivity into their offspring that I have not. But at the age of six or seven you cry because your parents are crying, because you have spent a sleepless night in Hyde Park, or because Mum has just refused to buy you a 99 from the ice-cream van in Kensington Gardens. Children heal with their directness, not with their emotion. As on the evening of the funeral we wandered, sentimental tourists, among the candles and flowers outside Kensington Palace ("no you can't take the toy lamb home, it's for Diana") and turned into Kensington Gore, my four-year-old, perched on her father's shoulders, rolled her eyes up to heaven and exclaimed, "Oh God, (where does she get her language?) 'not more flowers.' I think Diana would have laughed."



Dinah Hall

## the leader page

## Britain's new mood sets a task for Blair

Britain feels like a subtly different country this morning. "As a result of what happened, we have changed," the Prime Minister said yesterday, as he sought to define the effect of Diana's death on how we see ourselves. As he said, the people of Britain want to be part of a more compassionate nation. They responded to the pomp and ceremony, but wanted it done differently. They insisted it should reflect their feelings, rather than be imposed on them. The observances of the people's funeral – the flowers, the books of condolences, the clapping – were improvised to fit the people's mood.

What happened over the past week also crystallised changes which have already taken place. The Labour landslide in May revealed a willingness to change, an ability on the part of Britain to re-imagine itself, to embrace a different identity. If we reflect on the last time we were, as a people, so self-aware, it is abundantly clear that we are no longer the nation that Margaret Thatcher tried to imagine to be.

Compare the public response to the royal wedding in 1981 and the Falklands war in 1982 with the election of a Labour government and the mourning of Diana in 1997. In the early Eighties, Mrs Thatcher wanted to use images of the relatively recent past

to create a sense of national identity: she used Churchill. It was a sentiment which recalled past greatness and saw greatness in the future as an extension of what went before, with the monarchy underwriting that continuity. Sailing to fight the aggression of a dictator on far-flung British soil recalled both the Second World War and earlier imperial duty.

In the late Nineties, the mood is quite different. No less self-confident, perhaps: there was nothing difficult about the crowd on the streets last week. The people seemed sure of what they wanted – it was the old institutions of the Royal Family and the Church that were unsure of themselves. But the mood is much less reliant on the crutches of past glories.

We have, then, a huge opportunity to define and promote a new, more forward-looking national identity. The *Demos* paper published today on the "rebranding" of Britain is interesting in itself, but the more so because it has caught the eye of the Prime Minister (Geoff Mulgan, the director of *Demos*, is now a part-time adviser in Downing Street).

It starts from the observation that Britain has a confused and somewhat jaded image abroad, its advertisement as a heritage theme park often undermined by the reality of dirty streets, poor food and surly service. It is true



ONE CANADA SQUARE CANARY WHARF LONDON E14 5DL  
TELEPHONE 0171-293 2000 / 0171-346 2000 FAX 0171-293 2436 / 0171-345 2435

that the way to change Britain's image is from within. In marketing-speak, the product has to be right. You cannot simply invent a brand image or impose a reputation on a country that does not earn it. Good marketing can only highlight and bring together elements of reality.

So, as we re-imagine our nation's future, it has to build on the past without being trapped by it. Britain is capable of being a compassionate nation: it has a long tradition of fair play and support for the underdog. And there are legacies of the Thatcher revival which remain important:

Britain as an open, trading economy, the hub of financial markets and of communications. The principal inheritance of our imperial past is rarely commented on and yet gives us an important competitive advantage: the fact that English is the global language. Its domination of international business is so great that it is even the official language of the single European currency, even though Britain will not be a launch member. It is overwhelmingly the language of the Internet. Britain has given up an empire of territory for an empire of consciousness.

Linking the themes of compassion and openness is the image of a country that is open to ideas, tolerant of diversity and eccentricity, and above all creative. Mr Blair is right to draw attention to the economic success of British creative industries: media, music, fashion, design, advertising, film, computer software, retailing.

The Prime Minister's rhetoric of Britain as a young country is apt. And, as a rhetorician, Mr Blair is supremely qualified to articulate our emerging new identity – a new identity which must include a real willingness to reshape our political institutions, not merely in the form, but also in the substance. An open, confident Britain would have no trouble with greater self-government for parts of its realm: Mr Blair sometimes manages to give the impression of wanting to keep as many powers as possible in Westminster. Even more worrying is our report today of the full extent to which the network of Conservative patronage has simply been replaced by a Labour network of cash for titles. And for the Labour Party to have accepted a donation from Ian Greer, the lobbyist who was the go-between in the cash for questions scandal, simply beggars belief.

Let us hope these are the fading instincts of inertia, rather than harbingers of an imperial premiership to

come. Because Mr Blair is uniquely equipped to shape our sense of ourselves, and to present a new image of us abroad. He is a shrewd judge of the public mood and a superb communicator, able to find the right words and strike the right pose, as he showed last week.

Unlike Baroness Thatcher – and despite modelling himself on her – he is better at reflecting public opinion back to the public than he is at giving a lead. And that is what we need in Downing Street now: an enabler and facilitator, someone who can articulate and project the national mood.

## In a crisis, men know their place

No women still do all the housework, even if they and their men are both employed full-time? Not on Saturday, they didn't, if a quick survey in this office is to be believed. It seems most of the women were in front of the television tapping into their emotions, while the men, for once, looked after the children. Whether that makes them New Men, or simply confirms they are still of the unfeeling old variety, remains a matter of dispute.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Need for the monarchy to modernise

Sir: The events of the last week are of massive significance. The death of Princess Diana has provoked a media-driven period of mass grieving that has now developed into much more. Many people have expressed their surprise at their personal sense of loss.

This is not just because Princess Diana was a special person who gave so much to others, but because she was the one figure who, for many and especially the young, had made the Royal Family accessible and relevant in recent times. She was the people's hope of much needed reform and modernisation of Britain's monarchy.

The staid and aloof position of the Royal Family is no longer acceptable to the people. The mood of the public has changed and sadness is being replaced by anger and resentment of the Windsors' reign. Much of this feeling has been swelling up over recent years with damaging revelations about royal behaviour as well as frustration over the Palace's determination and reluctance to introduce change. The death of Princess Diana has provided a catalyst to the sudden release of these feelings and although loyalty will remain as strong as ever for Prince William and Prince Harry, confidence in the Queen and Prince Charles has greatly suffered.

What we are witnessing amounts to a revolution: a peaceful but unmistakable call from the country for the monarchy to modernise and adopt a more "human" approach to its subjects. Early indications show the Palace is willing to respond to the public's demand for a new role. The danger is that now people have seen that their pressure can produce and influence royal policy, they will not be content if the monarchy reverts back to old ways after the funeral.

If the Queen cannot bring herself to recognise the extent of public feeling, then a change of monarch may be demanded. Since it now seems likely that public opinion will exclude Charles from the Crown, the only publicly acceptable candidate is Prince William. However, it will be many years before he is ready for such a responsibility. It remains to be seen whether the country has the patience to wait.

JEFFERY GREEN  
Chalfont St Giles, Buckinghamshire

Sir: The Queen has pulled it off. At the end of an amazing week the country seems to have calmed down. But it has been a close thing – mature women, outside the palace, said things like "I wouldn't have come here for any of the others" (Letters, 4 September). They had the House of Windsor on the run.

True, it has suited the media, particularly the tabloids, to exaggerate the divisions between the people and the Royal Family but there was a moment last week when the royals seemed to have lost it. If a thriving monarchy is to emerge now, the people power of the last few days must be harnessed to ensure disreputable journalism does not sour Prince William.

It is he who, as the very image of his mother in this visual age, is in the unique position to ensure that her spirit lives on in his family and the country.

HOWARD WATSON  
Chipping



## Spencer's words best left unsaid

Sir: Like the rest of the British people I have been deeply touched by events since the death of Princess Diana and found the funeral service on Saturday in Westminster Abbey particularly moving.

Earl Spencer certainly deserves respect for his tribute to Diana, but I did feel that the part of his address which has been interpreted as a thinly veiled criticism of the Royal Family would have been better left unsaid.

In her broadcast the day before the funeral, the Queen was magnanimous towards the Princess of Wales; also, she emphasised her concern for her grandsons and the need for unity in the grief arising from this tragedy.

Surely it is family unity and support which are most needed to give the two princes the soundest possible psychological support following their devastating loss.

GALEN BARTHOLOMEW  
Worcester

## Lasting tributes to Diana

Sir: Rather than looking to others to devise a memorial in honour of Princess Diana, I believe there is an appropriate tribute we could individually pay her. If each of her mourners made a simple commitment to adopt the new habit of treating each other with more of the humanity she displayed, the benefit to our community and country would soon be felt by everyone.

JEREMY GLYN  
The Centre of Change  
London, SW6

Sir: Perhaps each town or parish should raise a simple stone memorial in a prominent place and inscribe on it the names of all the people of the area who have, like her, died in traffic accidents. Such public reminders of the endless carnage on our roads might serve a similar purpose to that of war memorials – to cause us to stop and think, to mourn and to work against a repetition, or continuation, of the dreadful carnage.

JOHN GRANEY  
Bradley, Isle of Wight

Sir: Can we have a postage stamp in memory of Princess Diana with a fixed percentage of the face value going to her new charitable trust?

It would raise a large sum of money and probably many of the stamps would never be used.

ROGER MARTYN  
London NW5

## Catholic priests living two lives

Sir: Lynne Edwards' letter (3 September) overstates the case for changing the Catholic Church's law of celibacy for the clergy. She claims that "it has no foundation in scripture or theology" and says a priest will not generally talk to his bishop about a serious relationship with a woman.

Clerical celibacy is founded on Scripture. Christ praised men who "have made themselves that way (eunuchs) for the sake of the

kingdom of heaven" (Mt 19: 11-12). St Paul invited them to follow his celibate example, "I should like everyone to be like me, but everyone has his own particular gifts" (1 Cor 7: 7).

The long theology of celibacy was carefully considered and summarised by all the bishops of the world at the 1962-65 II Vatican Council. They noted that it has been highly regarded from earliest times because, for believers, a celibate priest is a particularly powerful sign of the great mysteries of the Church, redemption and the invisible life of grace, and also points to eternal life. They also discussed the Church's present law and then re-affirmed it.

The experience of other bishops, and my own, is that priests who run into difficulty with celibacy often discuss such situations with us openly and honestly; sadly, many of them freely chose to leave us.

Lynne Edwards claims to speak for a small group of priests who seem to be trying to live two lives. Like the rest of us, they made a mature and free promise to embrace life-long celibacy; they now seem to be trying to function publicly as Catholic priests, whilst ignoring that solemn promise, and privately enjoying a secret relationship with a woman. That seems an insecure base from which to challenge the Church's law.

HUGH LINDSAY  
Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria  
The writer was Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle 1974-1992

## How to clean a building safely

Sir: Nonie Niesewand ("Taken to the cleaners", 5 September) believes the 1994 CDM Regulations to be the "Cleaning, Design and Maintenance Regulations". CDM, in fact, stands for Construction Design and Management and is one of the most important pieces of health and safety legislation to affect construction industry in recent years.

I agree that the 1994 legislation has implications for designers of glass façades; it places an obligation on those designers to consider how such structures will be maintained and kept clean. However, the actual emphasis and aim of the legislation is for designers to consider how buildings will be maintained and cleaned safely.

The 1994 CDM regulations were the first to place responsibilities on designers, which includes both engineers and architects, to consider and identify how the health and safety of persons may be affected by their designs; not only during the construction of the structure, but also in the use and maintenance of that structure. Any risks identified are required to be, at best, eliminated, or, if avoidance is not possible, mitigated.

I suspect the general public is mostly unaware of the abundance of safety legislation and the genuine effort and drive to avoid accidents that prevails throughout the construction industry.

How to clean a building is not the major problem. How to clean it safely is.

HELEN JONES  
Swindon

## BT's changing pattern of calls

Sir: Friends & Family is BT's free scheme which provides a 10 per cent discount on all calls to up to 10 telephone numbers selected by the customer (Letters, 2 September). These numbers are not changed without the customer's permission.

To help customers, and in response to demand, BT now recommends the 10 numbers which they have recently called which would give the biggest savings.

Of course, calling patterns change and, over time, some of those numbers may be called less frequently or not at all.

BT include everyone's home number as an 11th Friends & Family number so that those customers who telephone home, using their BT Chargecard, can benefit from the 10 per cent discount.

IAN DREW  
BT Market Response Manager  
Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire

## Rhythm of a real composer

Sir: So Ravel's *Bolero* indicates that the composer "was in the early stages of dementia", because its "most striking feature" is the persistent rhythm ("Bolero: the work of a man going mad", 4 September)?

No, Dr Eva Cybulska, that's what the music is about. Composers aren't laboratory rats: they make up music as a voluntary act of will, and sometimes the act of will involves deciding to illustrate the idea of persistence. Oh, and by the way: the "evolution of the theme" that your niece is looking for is there, under and around the persistent rhythm.

That's how you can tell the music is by a real composer, not a minimalist wannabe.

On this showing, was every Baroque composer who wrote music on a repeating bass line also showing incipient dementia? (How about Pachelbel, with that perennial Canon?) A couple of years after *Bolero* Ravel managed to overcome his disability to toss off a couple of magnificent piano concertos – not a "throbbing rhythm" in a carload.

ERIC VAN TASSEL  
Fulmer, Cambridgeshire

Sir: A further investigation into Ravel's *Bolero* would show that the repetitive and throbbing rhythm had little to do with his oncoming mental illness.

The idea was based on a factory at work, and Ravel would have liked to have staged it in a vast industrial unit. His father, Joseph, was a motor enthusiast and invented a motor driven vehicle which was unfortunately destroyed during the Franco-Prussian war in 1870. He also developed a two-stroke engine.

Ravel loved the music of his native Basque country, but he also loved the music of Spain with its atmosphere saturated with the throbbing emotional rhythm of flamenco.

The *Bolero* united the monotonous factory noise of an industrial world with the popular rhythm of Spain.

GERALD DENLEY  
Covey

Sir: I have been listening to Ravel's *Bolero* for 65 years. And I still enjoy it. Is there something wrong with me?

DOUGLAS RICHARDSON  
London NW3

What else is  
there without  
being England  
kick around?

سكنا من الاصول



## Why the Scots need the English

Scotland defines itself against its neighbour: this week's vote could destroy its identity, says David Walker

According to the polls, the residents of England are happy to let the Scots get on with it. The Scots' walk with destiny this coming Thursday has much to do with them. Whatever the constitutional experts say, few English people are now – or are likely in future to get – exercised by the West Lothian Question or Barnett Formula anomalies giving those living in Lesmahagow a wee bit more public money per head than those in Littlehampton.

Yet the vote does concern the English. Everything to do with being Scottish is about not being English. The decision on opting for an Edinburgh parliament with all the trappings is more than just an exercise in identity politics – it is about the nature of Scottishness.

You can read the whole of Scottish history, at least since the first Stuarts in the Middle Ages, as the history of difference. To be Scots has meant, crucially once England's political and economic power was established, defining yourself one way or another as not English. Being not-English has involved varieties of whingeing, the construction of an ersatz Highland identity (why do Scots keep singing about butts and bens and glens when the vast majority live in cities?) and beating the English at their own games, rarely football. Being good in Scotland is rarely good enough. Why else have the brightest and best of Scots, from David Hume to wee Jimmy Naughtie, Robert Louis Stevenson to Iain Banks, David Boswell to John Lloyd (or Gordon Brown for that matter) just had to make it in London? Subconsciously there will be many Scots this week asking whether they or their children really want Edinburgh or Glasgow to be the summit of their ambitions.

This fact of Scottish life means – at least for me – the only plausible vote on Thursday is one that expresses the logic of three centuries of Scottish history since 1707, and probably a couple of centuries before that too. That is: Yes

### What else is there without having England to kick around?

to a parliament. They are fashionable, inoffensive and free (the English will pay). But if Scots are true to themselves they will vote No to the second question about giving the parliament tax-raising powers, because that choice, whatever Donald Dewar may say, means facing the prospect of losing England. And that is impossible, for what else is there without having England, culturally speaking, to kick around?

The other week the Scottish singer Kenneth McKellar caused great offence among the devolutionists by urging a No vote. McKellar, old now, was a great kilt swinger in his day, forever taking the road to the Isles. Yet what entertainers of his ilk may realise is how much Scots like to grouse – and against nobody more than the (archetypal) English. In popular song from Harry Lauder to Del Amiri and in Scottish fiction from Lewis Grassie Gibbon to *Trainspotting*, blaming and bemoaning the English is an old and much-loved ritual. When *Die Zeit* recently sent its correspondent to stroll the glens and Glasgow estates for devolutionist sentiment he puzzled at how they can be so conservative yet vote left. The answer, I think, recently was that Labour's unradical collectivism cohered with the Scottish personality – with Labour you get more, but things do not have to change much, including the relationship with England. What the Scots have wanted is the fiscal and political status quo plus the chance to see a *Braveheart* or its cultural equivalent from time to time. *Braveheart*, an American film starring an Australian, gave Scots another chance to rake over the embers of their resentments. But the idea that you can build a politics let alone institutions on that old sentiment is ridiculous, as more and more Scots have recently come to see.

Formally there are two questions being put to Scottish residents (how many commentators have fallen into the trap of saying Scots, forgetting that the English, Chinese, Indian and other residents of Scotland are of course enfranchised too). Actually there is another question. It's "Do you care?" and it is going to be answered in terms of the numbers who turn out.

Officially the size of the poll does not matter but politically of course it does. A turn-out of say 40 per cent, of which a majority votes "Yes, yes", won't be a ringing endorsement of anything except the status quo. Yet Thursday's legion of non-voters will be saying something intelligible, as will many of those voting "Yes, no". It goes like this. We like an occasional moan about the English but the idea that this means a profound desire for self-government, beyond a talking shop in Edinburgh, is deeply wrong.



## The end of the line for the Windsors?

by Polly Toynbee

Yesterday the Prime Minister was at Balmoral talking about what the Queen should do now. Earl Spencer's devastating attack on the Royal Family was still ringing in their ears, along with that wave of applause that swept through the crowds and, astonishingly, into Westminster Abbey itself. What now?

We cannot know yet what the fallout of this bizarre week will be. One MORI poll published over the weekend showed that 54 per cent of Britons think Prince Charles should now step aside and make way for Prince William as the next king. And only 30 per cent think we will still have a monarchy in 50 years' time. The cloying, saccharine coverage of the funeral on Saturday, especially from the BBC, missed the real mood of the times. Everything difficult about Diana's life, even her divorce, was massaged away in a sea of sugar. Yet those were the very things that made her life seem so poignant to so many.

You might say that is what funerals are all about. But the broadcasters, as journalists, should not have set aside all their instincts to tell the truth, in the service of the Palace. When the BBC, for instance, spoke of Diana being laid to rest in the scenes of her happy "carefree" childhood, you began to wonder who and what the propaganda was for. It is certainly not how Diana described her early life. She was, after all, the supreme royal truth-teller. How could the commentators surmise so glibly the Queen's imagined grief – when we know the Queen, in exasperation, called her "This impossible girl!"

The whole court of the cameras sought out the tears of the genuinely grief-stricken. A terrible sadness for the brutal death of an enchanting human woman in a car with her most unsuitable playboy lover does not fitly transform itself into this unctuous twaddle. Having been out in the crowds, I found that among many there was simply the desire to be present at an extraordinary occasion, to be part of the scene, to bring children so they could tell their grandchildren they were there. At times there was almost a party atmosphere – certainly plenty of cans of beer.

Any funeral grasps at the heart. The awful sight of any coffin containing a young beautiful body shocks and grieves us. A natural protest rises up within us against the monstrousness of death itself, along with unbearable pity for any bereft children left behind. Feelings were raw during the week, the outpourings on the streets often real enough, but what they really mean remains to be seen. Will many feel some revulsion that they have been manipulated into mass hysteria by myths, icons and symbols cynically manufactured by the press?

Now the Palace and the politicians will be planning how to step back and calm the fever. Attention will turn to their image, their style and, most of all, to their dealings with the press. Can royalty survive this foetid fascination? Certainly a privacy law could stem some of the worst excesses of the long-distance lens. It could be done, if the politicians were willing. Yet fear of the power of the press, led by Murdoch's battalions, makes them draw back from legislation that would undoubtedly sever the remarkably good relations Blair now enjoys with them. Blair's people are saying, yet again, that they prefer "voluntary" regulation. Earl Spencer's castigation of the media threw down a gauntlet to Blair, but it is one he will fear to pick up, for all its popular support.

### The cloying, saccharine coverage of the funeral, especially from the BBC, missed the real mood of the times?

Self-regulation doesn't work. Lord Wakeham, head of the Press Complaints Commission, appointed and paid by newspapers themselves, does the proprietors' job well – to protect the press from criticism by an occasional gentle knuckling-rapping. When I asked him what he thought of the British press, generally acknowledged as one of the nastiest in the world, he said he thought it was pretty good, though it sometimes "overstepped the line", whatever that line may be.

Even with legislation, though, it is doubtful that the Royal Family can ever now escape this wild coverage. To be sure, the young princes will be safe from intrusive lenses for a year or two. But it doesn't need paparazzi snappers to feed the acres of impertinent speculation, the wall-to-wall rubbish and nonsense that will surround their every breath, smile and frown. When William emerges soon to adulthood there will be another crescendo. The Charles/Canilla story will not die, however discreet they are. If Charles really is seriously unpopular, he may have to abandon the throne to save the monarchy. But where would that leave the whole shambles? What kind of a king could William be, in his father's tortured shadow? Would they really want to go on?

How the Royal Family failed to sense the feel-

ing of the nation in the days after Diana's death may not have mattered. The Queen's brilliantly crafted address to the nation, a bit too late perhaps, none the less worked its magic. But something snapped last week in the relationship between throne and subjects. For the first time in modern history the crown was openly challenged and forced to respond quickly and ignominiously to the people and to the tabloid front pages demanding they "do something". Appearing in their ludicrous kilts that first morning did not help. Pushing the boys out there looked cynical. Even making a point of holding Harry's hand, however sincere, looked to some like last minute image-making.

The press and the television funeral coverage since then have done their best to repair the damage: television out of some curious atavistic instinct to become an arm of the Palace, of Britishness and tourism at such times, the tabloids rowing back fast out of alarm at the prospect of losing their best-selling story. Tony Blair and his sure-footed advisers will be telling the Queen how to turn the royal firm into a Diana-friendly business. Cut the kilts, take fewer holidays, give up hunting and shooting, appear more often glad-handing the people, attach themselves to cuddly causes. Kiss more sick babies, take the kids to theme parks, ride bicycles, whatever. Make themselves loved.

Will it work? Why should Tony Blair particularly want it to? We know constitutional reform is not much to his taste. He has delayed reform of the Lords, though, when it comes, it will strike at the heart of heredity and the monarchy itself. We do not yet know whether he really means to allow proportional representation, or whether one way or another he may scupper it. Desire for fundamental constitutional change will not come spontaneously from his government. But since he is so deft at catching the public mood, all will now depend over the next few years on what the public thinks.

My guess is that the erosion of public support which has happened over the past 10 years will surge ahead: 55 per cent in a MORI poll last year said the country would be better or no worse off without a monarchy. Diana worship is anti-royal and anti-establishment in essence, odd though that seems given the way the funeral was covered. If Charles's unpopularity grows, can he bear it? Earl Spencer may be a curious vehicle for bringing about the downfall of the Crown, but, however unfair and vengeful, his words transmitted across the globe will not be forgotten. A fatal combination of loss of nerve within the Royal Family, and growing unpopularity among the people, may yet mean that this Queen will be our last.

## Diana's devotees join the new religion

There have been flowers, messages and tears to mark Diana's death. But beyond Westminster Abbey and other churches, few Christian symbols have been on display. For every cross, you will find many more cards with hearts drawn in them. This is Diana's icon: representing a devotion to feeling, compassion and emotion. But little mention of God.

Diana's funeral showed post-Christian Britain out in force. Just as there was a gulf between the people and those in the Palace, the beliefs of many listening to the funeral from outside bore little resemblance to the faith of those within the church walls.

People have a new religion. Most did not gather outside the Abbey and Kensington Palace to find God. They came together for a more internal exercise, to explore their all-

important inner selves and feelings, an event prompted by the death of a woman who excelled in expressing her own emotions.

This religion is the creed of the confessional society and has been developed by a priesthood of analysts, therapists, counsellors, agony aunts and psychobabblers. Like most religions, its practitioners are predominantly women. Its first commandment is to get in touch with your inner self. Diana followed that commandment and, though she flirted with formal, established religion, she never really, as the Archbishop of Canterbury has indicated, had much time for it.

Some see the new religion as Britain taking on a more Mediterranean, perhaps Catholic temperament, less hung up about feelings. To me, it remains characteristically British, still calm and reserved. At

Diana's funeral, there was none of the hysterical wailing seen on television after the latest Middle East atrocity. And its individualism is essentially Protestant, about each person's relationship with him and herself. What is innovative about what is happening – let's call it New Protestantism – is its secular quality, the banishment of God in favour of a spirit inside ourselves.

We have tended to miss this religious phenomenon because its explicitly individualistic nature, easily pilloried as narcissism, means it has no churches, no great institutions. And so apparently no power. Saturday changed that. Diana's death brought a massive New Protestant congregation together and demonstrated that even a religion which is so personal and fragmented can have a collective voice. It is also evangel-

ical and judgemental, critical of those who do not subscribe to its nostrums. The Queen, head of the Established Church, and her family, have felt the criticism of the already converted.

Over the past century, philosophers have rubbishised the notion of there being any concrete basis for morality, citing the impossibility of proving the existence of God or an absolute morality. They have dismissed ethics as expressing little more than the speaker's own emotions. Yet the unprecedented collective expression of emotion seen in the past few days has given fresh authority to morality, be it with respect to press behaviour or the actions of the Royal Family. New Protestantism, when it gets its congregation together, is a powerful force.

Jack O'Sullivan

## What a time for a funny writer to die

About 20 years ago I was on a plane going from London to Zurich and found myself sitting next to Geoffrey Dickinson, the cartoonist and assistant art editor of *Punch*. This was no coincidence; we were travelling together. Before take-off, Geoffrey nudged me violently and pointed to a tall, grey-haired man disappearing into the section with bigger seats and freer drinks.

"Did you see who that was?" he hissed.

"No," I said, "never seen him before in my life."

"Yes you have," he said.

"It was Charlie Chaplin."

And so it was, Charlie Chaplin going home to Switzerland. It was a strange thought to be so close to one of the most famous men in the world, a man whose silent image is still to this day better known than that of most people alive and well.

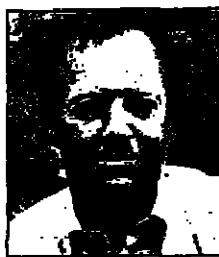
"You know what this means?" said Geoff. "Having Charlie Chaplin on board? It means that if this plane crashes and the newspaper headlines say 'Famous Funny Man Dead', it won't be me or you they're talking about."

I thought of this melancholy but funny remark when I heard of the death of Jeffrey Bernard. What a bad time to choose to die, when so many more famous people were taking the headlines. Princess Diana, Mother Teresa, Sir Georg Solti – all titled, oddly enough – and then a long way down the fame stakes, jostling for media coverage, poor old Jeffrey Bernard, whose passing may well have gone unnoticed by many people.

Many people, of course, won't even know who he is, will not have read his weekly "Low Life" column in *The Spectator* (to counter-balance the "High Life" column of Taki), and thus will not have met one of the most graceful and funny writers of the back-end of the century. As he got older and more immobile his writing became grouchy, as some humorous writers tend to do, but at least he was grumbling about the here and now and not looking back resentfully to a golden youth, and he grumbled with great style.

In earlier days, though, when he was just a young soak, he was not an old grouch. I have been going through old volumes of *Punch* searching for material for an anthology, and I have come across a piece he wrote on cat-racing which I think is one of the funniest pieces ever written.

(Cat racing? Well, Jeffrey



Miles Kington

liked to back the horses, so 1963 was a bad year for him. The winter was so hard that all horse-racing was off for months. Nothing to bet on. But one of his friends rigged up a course for cat-racing in a long corridor in his flat, and invited Jeffrey and a few others round to place bets on which of several half-starved cats would run (and jump) from one end of the corridor to the saucers of cat meat at the other. When you get to the stage where they tried to handicap the fastest cat by taping kitchen weights to its stomach, you should be rolling around with laughter. What- ever else I put in this anthology, there will be nothing funnier or better written.)

One of my few claims to fame is that I had a letter read out in full in the play *Jeffrey Bernard Is Unwell*. When I was literary editor of *Punch* I commissioned a book review from him, which he left unwritten for so long that I finally wrote to him, saying: "Dear Jeffrey, are you going to write the f\*\*\*\*\*g article or aren't you?" (No asterisks in the letter, of course.) The next day he appeared with the article in hand. "Good letter, Miles," he said. "That's what I call real editing."

I believe he kept the letter framed in his lavatory – certainly it was read out by one of the actors in every performance of the play, and I calculated that if I had got 2p royalty every time it was used, I might now be the proud owner of a lot of 2p pieces.

How *The Spectator* will replace Jeff's "Low Life" I do not know. Michael Bywater is the only person I can think of who comes near him in terms of elegantly turned misanthropy. It would be even better, though, if it could be replaced by a cordially grumbling column written by Jeffrey Bernard from the other side, criticising the service in heaven, the terrible people there and the dead souls he keeps bumping into to whom he still owes money.

The column, I think, would have to be called "After Life".

THE INDEPENDENT

## True or False?

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## obituaries / gazette

## Professor Hans Eysenck

Hans Eysenck has been the most influential British psychologist of the last few decades. Through his many articles and books he achieved world renown.

Eysenck seemed to relish controversy, and called his autobiography *Rebel with a Cause* (1980). He championed Arthur Jensen's belief in inherited IQ racial differences. He supported the tobacco industry's denial that cigarette smoking had been proved to cause lung cancer. He espoused Michel Gauquelin's conclusion that the positions in the sky of Mars, Jupiter and Saturn at birth correlate with adult personality traits. In each of these cases he adopted a position that many scientists found outrageous.

On the other hand Eysenck was a leading spokesman for a view that has been popular in academic psychology: that Freud was not a scientist and that psychoanalysis is unscientific. Eysenck repeatedly returned to this theme in articles, books and lectures over more than 30 years.

"Portrayed as extremist on many issues," he once said, he felt nevertheless that he had "always been an apostle of moderation." Yet *The Psychologist They Most Love to Hate* was the title of a profile of him in the weekly journal *New Scientist*. He aroused passions so strong that people attempted violence on him to prevent him from speaking publicly.

Eysenck did not practise psychotherapy himself. However, he pioneered in Britain behaviour therapy, which uses experimentally established principles of learning in order to change maladaptive behaviour. Similarly he did not research himself the genetics of intelligence, and based his writings about this subject upon other researchers' work.

Eysenck was born in Berlin in 1916. He hated Hitler and Nazism and in 1934, after enrolling as a physics student at Berlin University, he left Germany. He went to Dijon, in order to study French language, literature and history. After a few months he decided he preferred England, partly because he "felt safer" with the Channel between Hitler and himself.

He enrolled at London University expecting to study physics and astronomy. However, candidates for that course had to do two science topics on the entrance examination, and Eysenck apparently ignorant of the requirement, had not done so, and found he was ineligible. He had insufficient funds to wait another year and wanted to study a science subject. He alleged he had "never heard" of

psychology, but it was the least unscientific subject available given the exams he had passed. At the time he was "furious", but it turned out for the best, he later wrote. "In the larger ocean of the physical sciences life would have been very much harder." Years later he said light-heartedly that he could not take seriously a scientific discipline which would have him as a prominent figure.

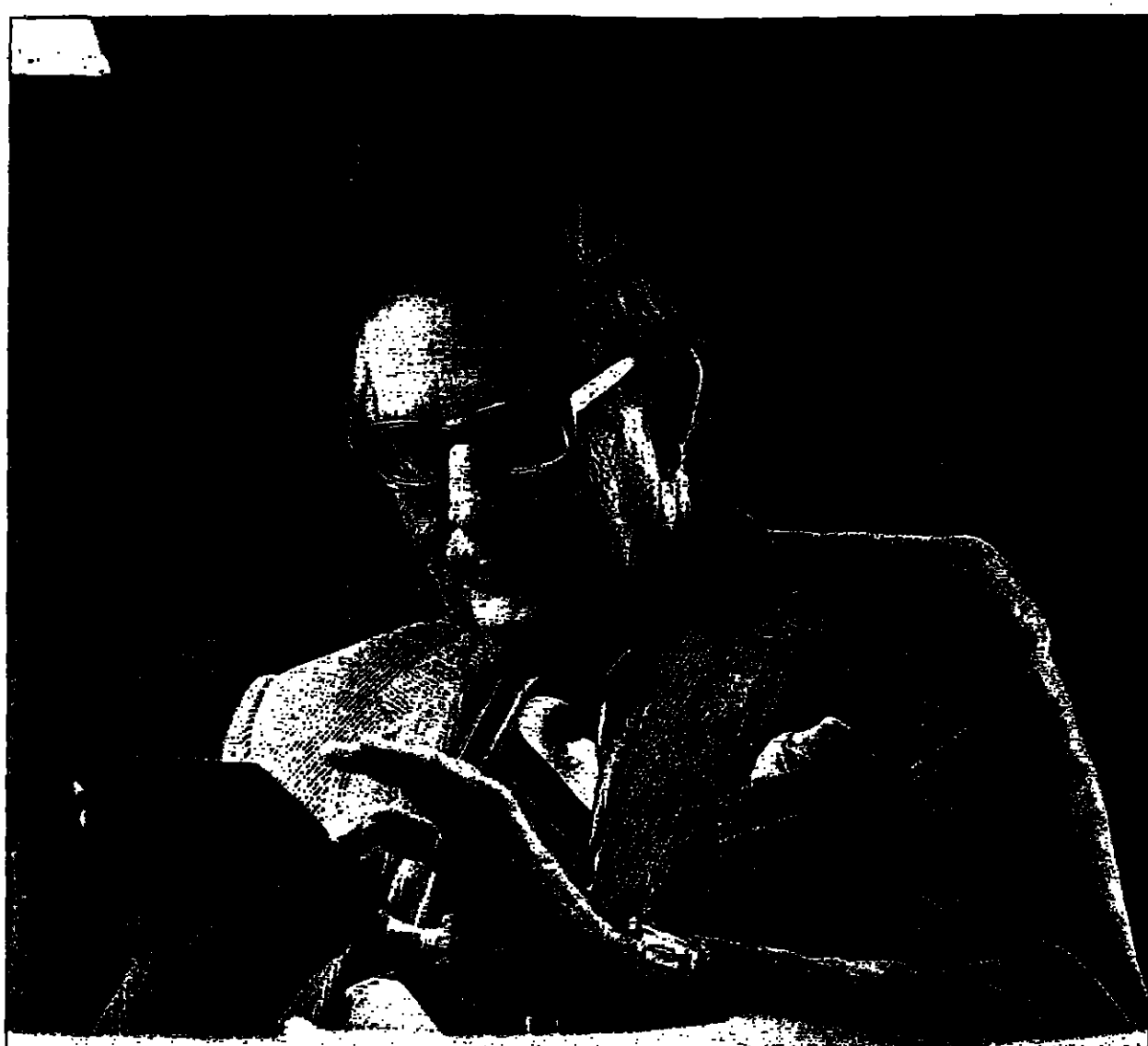
He studied psychology under Sir Cyril Burt, and emphasised statistical analysis and explored individual differences. Eysenck got his bachelor's degree from University College in 1938, and in the same year married his first wife, Margaret Davies. They had one child, Michael, born in 1944, who went on to become Professor and Head of the Department of Psychology at Royal Holloway, London University.

Hans Eysenck's PhD thesis, officially supervised by Burt, and published in 1940, investigated how artistic judgement or taste varies among individuals. Like nearly all Eysenck's work, this research expressed his view that scientific advance depends upon measurement. From 1942 to 1946 he worked at Mill Hill Emergency Hospital in north London. He moved from there to the Maudsley Hospital in south London.

His first published work, in 1944, was on social attitudes. The statistical analysis of attitudes and the psychology of politics became career interests. He held the view that, besides the distinction between conservatism on the Right and radicalism on the Left, "tough-mindedness" (or authoritarianism) is distinguishable from "tender-mindedness". He found evidence for his view, later expounded in his *Psychology of Politics* (1954), that the tough-minded include Fascists on the Left, whereas liberals are tender-minded. Further, men are more tough-minded than women, and working-class people more tough-minded than the middle classes.

He also came to "discover", as he put it, that "prejudice, authoritarianism, religion, conservatism and other social concepts require a very strong genetic component in their causation". He found that "roughly half the causal factors in producing the variety of social attitudes" were genetic in origin, the rest being due to environmental differences within families and between families.

A major objective for Eysenck was to develop a scientific understanding of personality. At Mill Hill he wrote his first book, *Dimensions of Personality* (1947), which tried to describe



Eysenck portrayed as an extremist but, in his own words, 'an apostle of moderation'

Photograph: David Rose

and to explain individual differences in human personality. Based upon observing and recording performance on objective tests, as well as behaviour, such as expressed opinions, attitudes and preferences, he developed the concept of "neuroticism". He equated neuroticism with "emotional instability" and defined it as an "inherited emotional instability" that predisposes a person to form neurotic symptoms under stress. He also studied another factor, introversion-extraversion, related to Carl Jung's introversion-extraversion typology, which Eysenck found was independent of neuroticism. In a later book, *The Scientific Study of Personality* (1952), he added a third dimension of personality, "psychoticism", which he believed discriminated people diagnosed as psychotic from normal and neurotic people. Eysenck regarded personality largely as innate and genetically determined.

Eysenck's second marriage was in 1950 to Sybil Rostal. He married her "for love", and remained "in that state", he said in 1990, "for some 40 years now - a boring tale perhaps, but there is a lot to be said for such a state!" He did not fall into the category of someone "whose private life - or sexual behaviour - is really relevant to their autobiography". "By Kinsey's standards," he said, his life had been "extremely average". Nothing "would bring a blush to the face of an octogenarian spinster in Bournemouth!" Sybil Eysenck later became a noted psychologist herself and co-authored several books with her husband.

He and Sybil had both been only children, and had "regretted very much the absence of any brothers or sisters". They had both been determined to avoid the "only child" status for their children, and had together three sons and a daughter. Invited by the psychiatrist Sir

Aubrey Lewis, founder of the Institute of Psychiatry, Eysenck joined him there in 1950. Eysenck became (in his own words) Lewis's "blue-eyed boy", who "could do no wrong". Initially Lewis defended him against attacks by colleagues who resented Eysenck's criticisms of psychoanalysis and psychotherapy. However, when Lewis later argued that patients should be treated only by medically qualified therapists, Eysenck opposed him - and won. Eysenck believed that psychology was "a fundamental scientific discipline" which alone was "able to discover the laws of nature according to which behaviour could be controlled", whereas psychiatry was "merely an applied discipline making use, at best, of the discoveries of psychology".

Eysenck worked at the Maudsley Hospital and at the Institute for most of his professional life. In 1950 he was appointed Reader in Psychology,

a subsection of the Department of Psychiatry. In 1955 the psychology department became independent, and Eysenck became the professor. The department has trained postgraduate students in clinical psychology for MPhil, MSc and PhD degrees. This was the first course in clinical psychology to be recognised by an English university. More than anyone else Eysenck was responsible for establishing clinical psychology as a profession in Britain.

The Diploma in Psychological Medicine used to be the major psychiatric qualification in the United Kingdom, and psychology was an important part of the examination. For many years Eysenck gave psychology lectures to candidates. He taught many of the people who later became professors of psychiatry in Britain, and among the things he taught them were his criticisms of psychoanalysis.

One of Eysenck's "proudest boasts" as a teacher was that

there has been no Eysenckian school. He always "insisted", he said, that his students should remain critical of his own theories as well as of everybody else's.

"Each patient," he wrote, "constitutes a scientific problem of its own" and "the skill of the clinical psychologist consists in solving this unique problem in terms of the general principles offered by academic psychology". This he illustrated in *Case Histories in Behaviour Therapy* (1974), which he edited.

He was interested in developing theories underlying behaviour therapy. He thought that the scientific explanation of neuroses lies in learning theory. He discussed these issues in *Theoretical Foundations of Behaviour Therapy* (1968), which he co-edited with Irene Martin, a student and colleague. He also emphasised the importance of genetic factors in neurosis, and the relevance of personality differences to treatment.

At informal meetings of students and colleagues, "Hans made sure," reported Martin, that

the opponents were unanimously identified: psychoanalysts, dangerous through their wealth and influence, psychiatrists through their dominance, unscientific psychologists... Hans went gleefully into battle. If behaviour therapy based on theory was to dominate, then Freudians had to be dethroned and psychiatrists put into their proper place. If his personality theory was to rise, others had to fall.

In 1962 Eysenck became editor of the International Series of Monographs in Experimental Psychology. In 1963, he founded the journal *Behaviour Research and Therapy* (nicknamed "Brat"), and until 1978 was editor-in-chief.

Extending the principles of behaviour therapy to another field, he was among the first to argue, in *Sex, Violence and the Media* (1978), co-authored with D.K.B. Nias, that sex and violence on television do affect viewers.

Outside the academic world, he is perhaps best known for four popular books: *Uses and Abuses of Psychology* (1953), *Sense and Nonsense in Psychology* (1957), *Know Your Own IQ* (1962) and *Fact and Fiction in Psychology* (1965). These books have sold millions of copies in many translations and reprints.

They include chapters about hypnosis and suggestibility, lie detectors and truth drugs, telepathy and clairvoyance, the interpretation of dreams, the measurement of personality, the psychology of aesthetics, the measurement of intelligence, the effects of psychotherapy, national stereotypes, the psychology of anti-Semitism, and many other

subjects. In 1981 he and his son Michael collaborated in a popular book, *Mindwatching*.

In 1983, aged 67, Hans Eysenck retired from the Maudsley Hospital and from the Institute of Psychiatry, "an unwilling victim," he wrote, "of ageing". He stayed on at the institute as Professor Emeritus. He wrote that "a more welcome transition has been that from 'Dad' to 'Grandad'".

Eysenck once said that he was "not a good psychologist in the layman's sense", that is, "a person who has an intuitive understanding of other people's reactions". He said that tact and diplomacy were never his "strong points". They were "fine in international relations and politics", but in science only the facts mattered. He thought, he might have had this view "implanted" in his "genes". On another occasion he said that "such abilities" as he had in science lay "largely on the quantitative side, in measurement, psychometrics and statistical analysis".

A further self-assessment, presumably based upon responses to his own questionnaires, was that his characteristics were "independence, dominance, nonconformism, emotional stability, assertiveness, rebelliousness, risk-taking, control and (perhaps?) bloody-mindedness".

He regarded himself as a successful scientist, which he was. He attributed his success to have been "blessed with a high IQ, strong scientific motivation, considerable persistence, good health, a stable introverted personality which history has shown to be best fitted for scientific research, and special abilities of fast reading and writing".

A measure of a scientist's success is the number of instances that other scientists cite their work. That Eysenck liked giving weight to things that could be measured is shown by the last page of his autobiography: it lists members of the British psychology departments with the most citations in the 1985 Social Sciences Citation Index. He was far in front with 813 citations. The next nearest had 251.

Morton Schatzman

Hans Jürgen Eysenck, psychologist; born Berlin 4 March 1916; Senior Research Psychologist, Mill Hill Emergency Hospital, 1942-46; Director, Psychological Department, Maudsley Hospital, 1946-83; Reader in Psychology, London University (Institute of Psychiatry) 1950-54; Professor of Psychology 1955-83 (Emeritus); married 1938 Margaret Davies (deceased; one son), 1950 Sybil Rostal (three sons, one daughter); died 4 September 1997.

## Sir Georg Solti

Georg Solti was an international figure acclaimed as one of the great conductors of his generation. His work in the opera house, on the concert platform and in the recording studio touched several peaks. They included his 10 years as Music Director at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden (1961-71), as Artistic Director of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra for over 20 years (1949-91) and of the London Philharmonic Orchestra (1979-83).

Born Hungarian (as György Solti, in 1912), he became a British subject in 1972, thereby acquiring the right to the title conferred by his appointment as KBE the previous year in acknowledgement of his work at Covent Garden. On taking up this post he announced his intention to make Covent Garden "quite simply, the best opera house in the world", and in the opinion of many he did so, though his tenure was somewhat stormy: "You arrive with hisses and then comes the crucifixion. I wasn't ready for the crucifixion because I didn't know enough about the British character."

After leaving there he explained: "I have never been a specialist and now I want less than ever to be a specialist. Never stick to what you are famous for, never become a cliché. Always, always I fight the cliché." This sense of purpose informed his command of orchestras as well as his interpretations, not least in Richard Strauss and Wagner, whose *Der Ring des Nibelungen* Solti was the first to record complete and helped to make 1960s classical best-sellers.

Though he professed no religious orthodoxy ("I'm religious, not in a formal way, but

in believing seriously in the high order of the world"), he was born a Jew and this affected his early career. From childhood piano lessons and a public debut at the age of 12 he went the next year to the Liszt Academy at Budapest, where his teachers included Bartók and Dohnányi for piano, Kodály for composition. He joined the Budapest Opera as a répétiteur, worked with Toscanini at the 1936 and 1937 Salzburg Festivals, and made his conducting debut in *Le nozze di Figaro* at Budapest in 1938.

Finding Jews barred from contract appointments at the Budapest Opera, he left in 1939 hoping to further his career elsewhere. Warned by his mother against returning, he became confined to Switzerland by the outbreak of war. No labour permits were forthcoming to work as a conductor, so he returned to the piano and voice-coaching, and won first prize at the 1942 Geneva International romantic art concert, which brought engagements to help him through the war years.

He was still determined on a conducting career, and a chance acquaintance brought him an invitation to conduct *Fidelio* at Munich in 1946; his appointment as Music Director at the Bavarian State Opera there followed (1946-52), and the foundation of the company's post-war repertoire and reputation under his direction. He was then 33, and from the first secure base in his life he began to tour widely, making his British debut in 1949 with the LPO (after some initial gramophone records with them), and conducting *Don Giovanni* at Glyndebourne in 1954.

Solti moved to Frankfurt as General Music Director, 1952-

60, where he was heard and invited to conduct *Der Rosenkavalier* at Covent Garden by the Earl of Harewood, then on the opera house staff. He did so in 1959 with such success that he was offered the music directorship left vacant by Rafael Kubelík. Highlights of the Solti decade included the British premiere of *Moses und Aron* (Schoenberg), the first production there of *Die Frau ohne Schatten* (Strauss), the Ring cycles and Britten's *Billy Budd* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

A volatile, dynamic platform figure, prematurely bald, he galvanised orchestras to a pitch of sustained excitement which could make some performances sound hard-driven (Mozart particularly). Musicians spoke of an almost devilish flicker in his eyes while conducting (one labelled him "the screaming skull"), and his intense commitment sometimes exacerbated relationships with singers and others. But he insisted he was "a romantic at heart" and in later years he was professionally more relaxed.

He made pioneering use of stereo recording techniques both for symphonic music and in simulating the theatrical dimension of opera, notably in association with John Culshaw, Decca's innovative recording producer. Their records won a number of international awards, as have others conducted by Solti in the 30 years from Long-Play stereo to compact disc, though he seldom listened again once they were finished: "I hate going back to my old records."

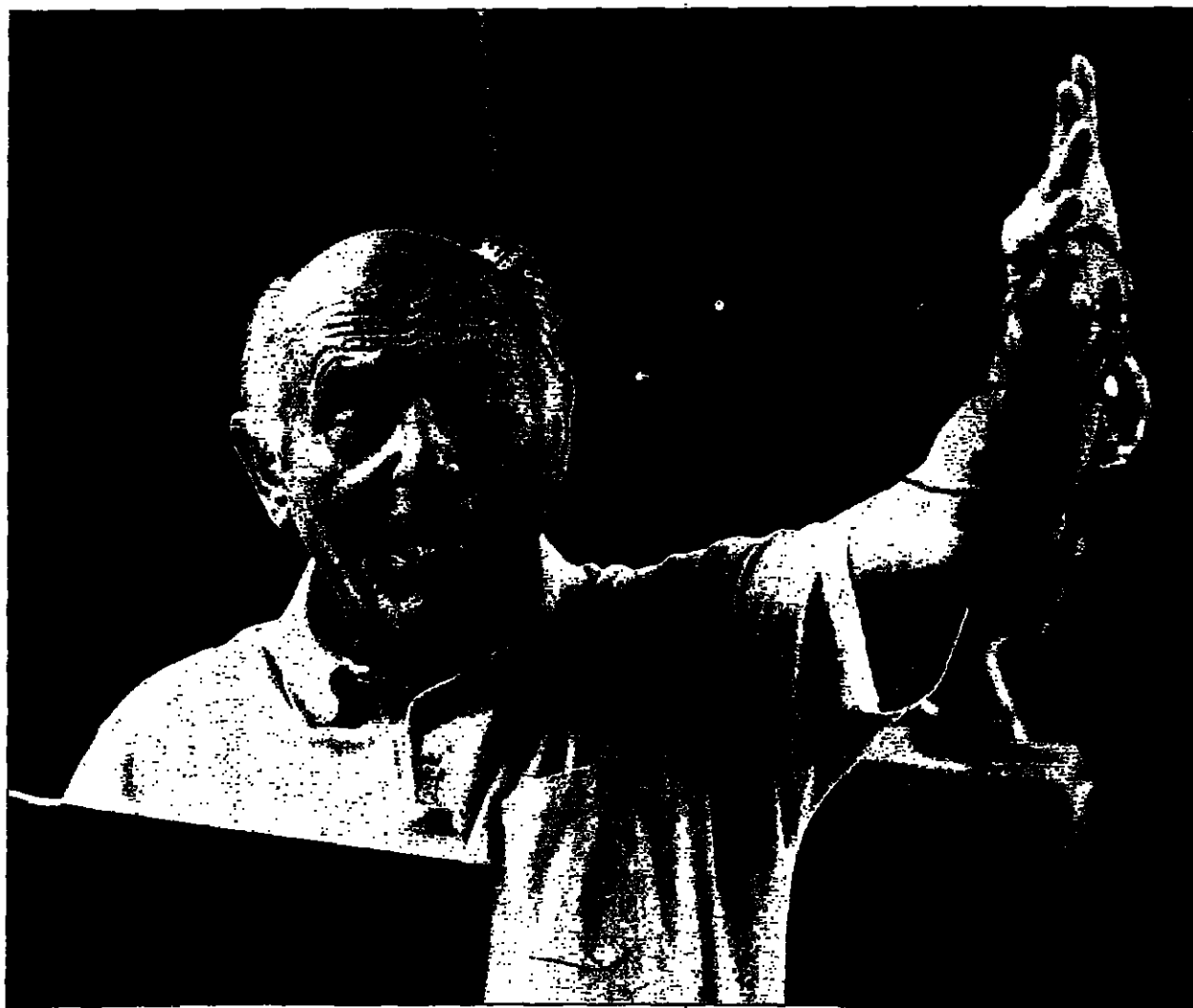
His American career developed concurrently after his making his debut there with the San Francisco Opera in 1953 (in *Elektra*). A contract for Los An-

geles was about to be signed when he accepted the Covent Garden invitation instead. He first went to Chicago as Artistic Director in 1969, overlapping his first two seasons at Covent Garden, and quickly established a rapport with an orchestra of whom he later said: "It's a marvellous thing to be musically happily married. I am, and I know."

This mirrored a more settled phase in his personal life after his divorce in 1966 from his first wife, Heddi Oeschli, whom he met and married in Switzerland. His second marriage in 1967 was to Valerie Pitts, 25 years his junior, after meeting her as a London television reporter sent to interview him; they had two daughters, Gabrielle and Claudia. His main home was in London, with others in Italy and Switzerland. Although English was long his principal language, he never lost a "goulash accent" which spiced his vivid conversation on rare off-duty occasions.

He additionally took on the Principal Conductorship of L'Orchestre de Paris, 1971-75, for part of that time serving also as Music Adviser to the Paris Opéra. In 1983 he worked with Sir Peter Hall in staging a new production of the Ring operas at the Bayreuth Festival which caused some controversy. In 1986 he returned to the concert platform as a pianist for the first time in 40 years, at the Aldeburgh Festival and in London in aid of musical charities.

He hated any sort of retirement, saying, "I would be unbearable and I could not wish that on my family", and continued musically active throughout his eighties, with an engagement to conduct Verdi's *Requiem* at the BBC Proms in London next Friday and a



Solti: an almost devilish flicker in his eyes - 'Always, always I fight the cliché'

Photograph: Clive Barde

South Bank concert with the LPO later this month. In 1995 he launched a scheme to promote a personal choice of young talent in London, underwriting costs of a recital he hoped would become an annual event. Through his combination of physical energy, authority, artistic perception and sensibility, Sir Georg Solti

left an enduring imprint of his personality on more than 50 years of musical performance the world over.

Noël Goodwin

György Solti (Georg Solti), conductor; born Budapest 21 October 1912; conductor and pianist, State Opera, Budapest 1930-39; Musical Director, Bavarian State

Opera 1946-52; Musical Director, Frankfurt Opera, and Permanent Conductor, Museums, Concerts, Frankfurt 1952-61; Musical Director, Covent Garden Opera Company 1961-71 (Musical Director Laureate, Royal Opera 1992); CBE (Hon) 1968, KBE 1971; Music Director, Chicago Symphony Orchestra 1969-91 (Music Director Laureate);

Musical Director, Orchestre de Paris 1972-75; Principal Conductor, Artistic Director, London Philharmonic Orchestra 1979-83 (Conductor Emeritus); Artistic Director, Salzburg Easter Festival 1992-93; married 1946 Hedwig Oeschli (marriage dissolved 1966), 1967 Valerie Pitts (two daughters); died Antibes, France 5 September 1997.

## BIRTHS

HENDRY: Duncan and Julie Hendry are pleased to announce the birth of Cameron Forbes Duncan at 6.55am on 4 September.

## DEATHS

FARAGO: Joanna (Joan Kathleen nee Farnell) born 5 June 1920, died on 2 September in King's College Hospital, London, loved by all her family and many dear friends. Any do-

## Births, Marriages &amp; Deaths

nations to mark the end of Joanna's life to your own favourite charity or to The British Liver Trust (Registered

Charity 298859, Ransome Europark, Ipswich IP3 9DG).

NOTES: Suddenly on 26 August 1997, at his home, Arthur Geoffrey, aged 70 years. Formerly of the College of St Mark and St John and of CNA, Funeral service at the Easter and David Crematorium on Thursday 11 September at 12 noon.

WALKER: Louis Charles Vivian, at home on 3 September 1997. Beloved husband of Ben, father of Simon.

Stephen, Catherine and Sanjay, grandfather of Jeremy, Gini, Robert, Daniel, Judith and Lewis. Funeral service at St Michael's Church, Highgate at 3pm on Thursday 11 September, followed by interment at Highgate Cemetery.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS may be telephoned to 0171-253 2011 or faxed to 0171-253 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

## Forthcoming marriages

Mr E. G. Beckett and Miss C. M. Padley

The engagement is announced between Edwin, son of Professor and Mrs W.R. Bucken, of Blairgowrie, Perth, and Clare, daughter of Mr and Mrs J.M. Padley, of Nassington, Peterborough.

## Birthdays

Mr Frankie Avalon, singer, 57; Professor Sir Derek Barton, organic chemist, 79; Sir Hugh Bennett, High Court Judge, 54; Mr James Daly, High Commissioner to Mauritius, 57; Mr Ian Davidson MBE, 47; Sir Peter Maxwell Davies, composer, 63; Miss Anne Diamond, television presenter, 43; Mr Michael Frayn, writer, 64; Miss Judith Hann, television writer and

presenter, 55; Mr Fred Jarvis, former general secretary, National Union of Teachers, 73; Mr Stefan Johansson, racing driver, 41; Sir Denis Lasham, architect, 83; The Marquess of Lothian, former governor of Lothian, 75; Mr Geoff Miller, cricketer, 45; Mr Jack Rosenbush, playwright, 66; Mr Yves St Martin, jockey, 36; Sir Harry Secombe, comedian and singer, 76; Professor Ernst Sondheimer, math-

ematician, 74; Col James Stirling of Garden, Lord-Lieutenant of Stirling and Falkirk, 67.

## ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Princess Royal visits the National Black of Prey Centre, Gloucestershire.

## Changing of the Guard

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am. Lieut. Stephen Scott, Captain the Queen's Guard at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, both provided by the Grenadier Guards.

مكتبة الانجلو



# Stock Exchange is tempting fate on the anniversary of the Big Bang

Next month, as memories of the 1987 crash haunt the stock market, there will be a dramatic upheaval in the way blue-chip shares are traded.

On the anniversary of the market's worst meltdown, which wiped billions of pounds from shares and prompted many to worry whether capitalism had been dealt a mortal blow, the Stock Exchange is tempting fate by introducing order-driven trading, as opposed to quote-driven, for the 100 blue chips making up Footsie.

The constituents of the supporting FTSE 250 index will quickly be dragged into the new style of trading, which represents a victory for the big American investment houses over what is left of the City old guard.

It is predicted that chaos will greet the arrival of the new order. To get dealers up and running, weekend instruction sessions are being held. The first took place yesterday.

But such a revolutionary switch is, by its very nature, accident-prone. Major market changes rarely go through smoothly. It seems impossible to find a trader who is not apprehensive about the first few weeks of order-driven trading. There are complaints that once a trade is punched into the system there is absolutely no opportunity to take remedial action. And cock-ups could prove hideously expensive.

Yast sums of money have been expended gearing up for the change which is seen in many quarters as the biggest upheaval since Big Bang 11 years ago when eyeball-to-eyeball trading ended with the closure of the traditional Stock Exchange floor.

Big Bang destroyed the old stock market. Following the subsequent crash there were massive rounds of redundancies. There are fears that even if equities continue their long bull run, order-driven trading

will lead to more job losses and kill much of the personal contact trading which has survived despite the advent of screen dealing.

It could end the power of the big market-makers, many of whom might soon be surplus to requirements. Under the present quote-driven system they make a market in shares, enjoying a profitable gap between buying and selling prices. The order-driven system leaves them in limbo. Potential share trades are computerised, displayed on an order book. They sit there until they can be fully or partly matched.

The cost of dealing under the new system has yet to be decided. The Stock Exchange is considering charges and hopes to provide details of the cost structure this week.

The quote-driven system charges have led some traders to conclude that Stock Exchange costs will be higher



## STOCK MARKET WEEK

### DEREK PAIN

Stock market reporter of the year

than Tradepoint Financial, the stock market in miniature which has been striving to become a dealing force.

Tradepoint, which already

offers an order-driven system, should benefit from the Stock Exchange's conversion.

Whether it will retain the perceived price advantage will not be known until the cost of Stock Exchange deals is set.

Still, talk that it could have a dealing advantage has been good for Tradepoint shares. They are traded on AIM, the junior market which is unlikely to be coerced into order-driven trading because of its lack of liquidity. Only last month Tradepoint shares were bumping along at a 65p low with the company's future in question.

Then came a £11.4m rescue package with a group of venture capitalists bankrolling the company, which lost £6m in the

year to end March. Its shares ended last week at 116p; last year they touched 180.5p.

Compared with the Stock Exchange, Tradepoint is a veritable titling. In July it handled £30.8m of trade while the Stock Exchange accounted for £221bn.

Order-driven trading must hasten the arrival of tiered stock markets to accommodate institutions and smaller investors and, indeed, smaller companies.

The requirements of the top 350 companies and those on the undercard are vastly different. And, of course, the needs of institutional investors and private players are poles apart.

Brian Winterlood of small company jobber Winterlood Securities has suggested segmentation of listed shares. He favours three categories: a big board 350, then what could be called a National Market made up of the 1,750 smaller com-

panies with full listings, and then AIM. It could be argued that in investment terms a two-tiered market is already evolving with the gap between the way big and small investors are treated yawning wider by the week.

There is a plethora of profit announcements this week. Norwich Union, the insurer expected to be voted into Footsie this month, makes its maiden announcement on Wednesday with interim operating profits of £311m expected.

Centrica, once part of British Gas, is another offering first-time results. The gas distributor is likely to offer an interim net income figure on Thursday of around £40m.

British Aerospace and BTR also appear. Thursday with the aircraft maker expected to enjoy a £100m interim lift-off to £295m and BTR, still in the restructuring throes, likely to manage a much more pedestrian £545m against £605m.

Other heavyweights with interim figures include Blue Circle Industries (£144m against £116.3m expected); Caradon (£76m against £81.3m); and Williams (£123.5m against £114.1m). Then there is United News & Media (£153m versus £151.9m); Legal & General (£168m, up from £134.3m) and Rio Tinto (£355m, down from £361m).

Enterprise Oil, with net income probably down from £73.8m to £63m, is also on the reporting schedule; so is one of the market's oldest takeover favourites, United Biscuits.

In days gone by United has enjoyed frenzied takeover speculation. But a bidder has failed to surface and United's shares have been chunked down to as low as 196p. They are now 208p against a peak of 434p three years ago. Interim results on Thursday are unlikely to offer any encouragement – the market is looking for £32m against £44.9m last time.



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# business & city

FINANCIAL JOURNAL  
OF THE YEAR

Business news desk: tel 0171-293 2636 fax 0171-293 2098  
BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

New round of price cuts at BT □ Mobile operator targets business market □ Telephones to do away with cashpoints

## British Telecom to reduce cost of calls to mobiles

Chris Godsmark  
Business Correspondent

British Telecom is to slash the cost of some phone calls on its network by more than 10 per cent from tomorrow.

It will separately announce a 12 per cent cut in the cost of calling customers on the Cellnet and Vodafone mobile networks. This move follows a reduction in the wholesale charges the two operators levy on BT to pass on calls to mobile users.

This will be seen as an attempt by the mobile operators to head off further criticism from the telephone industry watchdog.

Ofel has strongly urged Cellnet and Vodafone to bring their charges closer into line with those imposed by rivals Orange and One 2 One, and is due to give its ruling at the end of this month.

In the first BT price reductions since a new four-year price cap imposed by regulator Ofel came into force last month, the price of long-distance national calls made during weekday evenings and nights is to fall by just over a tenth from 1 October. The cost of calls will drop by 0.5p a minute to 4.2p per minute.

This means a five-minute trunk call made between 6pm

and 8am will cost 21p instead of 23.2p.

Including these latest price cuts, national evening and night-time calls will have fallen in price by 28 per cent this year. Last October they fell from 5.9p a minute to 4.7p.

The latest reductions will knock £31m off BT's revenues this year, though only £12m of this decline is due to the new set of price controls. The price regime, which began on 1 August, keeps bills 4.5 per cent below inflation until 2001.

The new price package set by Ofel will benefit BT's residential customer base. Though the previous price regime appeared tougher, setting call charges at inflation less 7.5 per cent and knocking £417m off BT's revenues last year, it was targeted mainly at higher-spending homes and business customers.

The new round of price cuts is likely to be warmly welcomed by Ofel as a sign that intense competition will also force BT to reduce phone charges which are not now subject to price controls.

Ofel has said it expects competition to take the place of price regulation after 2001.

However, the cuts in the cost of calling the Cellnet and Vodafone networks look sure to

intensify BT's row with Ofel over the high cost of calling mobile phones from the fixed operators.

The two mobile networks are understood to have reduced the wholesale price they levy on BT to pass on the calls to their customers from 22.8p a minute in the daytime to 19p.

BT will say tomorrow that it will pass on that reduction, which will cut the retail price charged to its customers by 12 per cent, from 36.5p a minute to 32p.

The reductions by Cellnet and Vodafone, which will significantly reduce their revenues, are much smaller than the cuts suggested by Ofel in a strongly worded consultation document in March.

Ofel said the appropriate wholesale charge to BT should be 10p-14p for Vodafone and 13p-18p for Cellnet.

Orange and One 2 One, which use different digital technology, last year raised their wholesale charges to 15p and 13p respectively.

Ofel is considering responses from Vodafone and Cellnet to its proposals.

The final ruling on the cost of calling mobiles is due at the end of this month, with a decision yet to be taken by Don Cruickshank, the regulator.



The cost of calling mobile phones from fixed operators has been criticised by the telephone industry watchdog

## 'Bank in a phone' 18 months away

Sameena Ahmad

Hate queuing at cashpoints? Worried about carrying cash around? Logica, the fast-growing computer services company, thinks it has the answer. Logica is teaming up with Cellnet, the mobile phone operator, and Motorola, which makes handsets and smart card circuits, to develop a "mobile wallet".

The deal, likely to be announced in the next three weeks, is to develop a mobile phone which can send and receive cash electronically. Customers could pay cash for theatre tickets, a pizza or a holiday over the phone. They could also use the phone to transfer money between accounts, pay bills and view bank statements. Experts reckon a "bank in a telephone" is just 18 months away.

Logica, Cellnet and Motorola would make obvious partners. Cellnet's Barclaycard phone, which lets customers check their bank and credit card balances, has proved popular. Motorola is a leader in integrated circuits. Its new SIM card allows users to pay for phone calls as they make them and download cash directly from their bank accounts.

According to market research by Dataquest, although the market for smart cards is growing, customers want additional features. They want to be able to see and key into the smart card information, they want a subsidised or free display device and they want their smart card services to work everywhere.

The competition between mobile phone operators and others to offer all this will be fierce. As one analyst put it: "No one will buy a mobile phone just because it makes telephone calls. Customers want ever more sophisticated services."

Separately, today Logica will announce a contract, worth around £250,000, to fit Girobank with a modern financial messaging system.

## Orange to double advertising budget to stay ahead of competitors

Chris Godsmark

Orange, the newest of the UK's mobile phone networks, is planning to double its advertising spending. Its first fully fledged assault on the business market starts today.

Orange is likely to raise its press, poster and broadcast

advertising budget next year from £25m to £50m in a long-term bid to keep its place as the fastest growing of the four mobile operators. It signed up its millionth mobile customer in July.

The new campaign, which will represent a significant departure for the Orange brand,

will intensify the tough competition between the networks. Of the other three, Vodafone is spending £35m bringing its various retail chains under its single main brand, while One 2 One has spent heavily on television advertising this year.

The first phase of the Orange promotion starts today with a

£1m press campaign aimed at attracting business customers. The press adverts feature fake management "guru" books to highlight specific services.

Since its launch Orange has been more successful targeting personal customers and some small business users. Though it sells services to 45 of the top 100

UK companies it plans to invest more in targeting large businesses.

Robert Fallow, Orange's recently appointed marketing director, said today's business campaign would be "the tip of the iceberg", with a further push from October to December. He said the new adverts, de-

signed by the WCRS agency, would concentrate on specific segments of the market. "You will see a much more targeted approach to the market."

Mobile networks have traditionally concentrated their TV advertising at Christmas, which spectacularly backfired for Cellnet and Vodafone in 1995. They

attracted many low-spending customers with discounts, who later left the networks at considerable cost to the operators.

Orange recently pledged to double its investment budget to £800m by early 1999. The investment includes building hundreds more signal base stations to improve reception quality.

## Merger boom boosts top solicitors' pay packets

Roger Trapp

Some top City solicitors are earning £600,000 to £700,000 a year as a result of the continuing boom in mergers and acquisitions and other corporate activity, according to figures released today.

While the *Legal Business 100* shows the surge in earnings that boosted revenues at Britain's 100 biggest law firms by more than 14 per cent, to £3.73bn, is spread across the country, the City of London's leading firms dominate.

The turnover of just five firms - Clifford Chance, Linklaters & Paines, Freshfields, Allen & Overy and Slaughter and May - together topped £1bn, or nearly a third of the total fees earnings recorded in the listing. Pointing out that between May 1996 and April 1997, UK law firms worked on 4,491 transactions, worth £325.1bn, the editors of *Legal Business* write that "M&A lawyers undoubtedly set the pace, although litigation, property and insurance lawyers were not far behind".

Senior partners at the leading firms attributed the performance to the strong economy and huge demand for their services. "Everyone's been working an incredible number of hours," said one.

However, despite the general improvement in billings, the

### Gross fees 1997

No	Firm	Gross fees (£m)	Profits per partner (£000)
1	Clifford Chance	310	347
2	Linklaters & Paines	213	418
3	Freshfields	182	445
4	Allen & Overy	167	540
5	Slaughter and May	140	566
6	Lovell White Durrant	130	284
7	Eversheds	125	176
8	Herbert Smith	104	350
9	Dobb Lupton Alsop	101	271
10	Simmons & Simmons	92	174

league table shows a mixed picture. Some larger firms are investing so much in information technology and overseas offices that partners may take home no more money than those in the middle market.

Indeed, the apparent success of middle-market firms, such as Nabarro Nathanson, Watson Farley & Williams and Rowe & Maw, which all achieved revenue increases of more than 10 per cent, is one of the surprises of the listing, since it had been widely predicted that practices like these were vulnerable to the arrival in London of powerful regional firms, US organisations and the increasing presence of big accountancy firms, particularly Arthur Andersen.

For the moment, the policy of Slaughter and May - described as home of "the richest lawyers in the City by far" - of concentrating on being a pre-eminent UK corporate adviser seems to be paying off. It achieved by far the highest average profit per partner, £566,000, though it is said that some of its senior people earn as much as £700,000.

Allen & Overy saw turnover rise 31 per cent, to £167m, while profits per partner were second only to Slaughter and May's, at £540,000.

On the other hand, Clifford Chance, the City's biggest firm with revenues of £310m, found itself exposed to a common problem: the strong pound.

*Legal Business* emphasises that its figures, based on well-informed estimates, are not necessarily the same as take-home pay.

## Surge in number of gas disconnections

Chris Godsmark

Up to 20,000 households a year could have their gas supplies disconnected, the Gas Consumers Council (GCC) warned yesterday, after a surge in the number of customers cut off in recent months.

Figures released today by the GCC show disconnections are running at a rate of 5,000 a quarter, an increase of 25 per cent on the 3,750 homes cut off in each quarter in 1995.

One possible explanation for the rocketing number of disconnections is that British Gas is catching up on its bad debt customers following a moratorium on disconnections last year.

Embarrassing difficulties with the new Tariff Gas Billing computer system meant that some homes which had paid bills on time were wrongly disconnected.

However, the GCC said that more and more low-income

households were at the same time being moved on to pre-payment meters, a policy which should have tended to reduce the number of disconnections.

Pre-payment meters, which mostly use a smart card to charge up gas units, are used by suppliers as an alternative to disconnection. The GCC also highlighted figures from the Consumers' Association, last week, which showed pre-payment customers had to pay

up to 37 per cent more for gas in the competitive market than homes paying their bills by direct debit.

Sue Slipman, GCC director, said it was too early to say whether the higher disconnection figures reflected a tough new policy by British Gas, which could be followed by the emerging rival independent suppliers.

"We are worried that vulnerable consumers facing debt problems could be worse off in

a competitive market unless the good practice established by the old British Gas can be realised as a standard in the new market and implemented by all suppliers," Ms Slipman warned.

The disconnection statistics have become the responsibility of the GCC recently, a move which reflects the start of the domestic gas competition trials. By next spring all 20 million homes will be able to choose their gas supplier.

## South American portfolio not for sale, says Lloyds

Sameena Ahmad

Lloyds TSB roundly quashed speculation at the weekend that it planned to sell off its South American banking businesses worth up to £500m.

A spokeswoman for the bank firmly denied press reports that Lloyds had hired Goldman Sachs, the American investment bank, to advise on the future of its South American businesses. "We've not appointed anyone to sell our South American businesses. We have no plans to sell."

The company has said it would like to make acquisitions with its cash pile, which reached over £1bn after the sale last Friday of Business Technology

Finance for £235m. But it also indicated it was "not averse" to a share buy-back.

Lloyds would not comment on its longer-term plans for its South American portfolio, which includes large businesses in Brazil and Argentina and offices in 10 other countries, nor on whether it intended to build on those businesses.

It insisted there were no difficulties there. "Brazil has now become profitable. We don't have Third World debt problems," the company said.

Lloyds, which in February paid £300m for the remaining half share in Banco Multiplic, its Brazilian bank, also denied suggestions that rival HSBC, which recently bought an

Argentinian financial services company for £380m, was making more aggressive in-roads in the region.

"We have been the most committed of all the players. We stayed in the Third World when many pulled out," said the spokeswoman. "We have been picking up our portfolio after the TSB merger and we are looking at our businesses."

Commenting on reports that Goldman Sachs would present a proposal about the future of its South American operations to the Lloyds board, the spokeswoman said she was unaware of plans for any such presentation or whether Goldman was acting as an unappointed adviser on this or any other project.

### IN BRIEF

#### 'Lloyd's List' publisher to buy MRC

L.L.P. the publishers of *Lloyd's List*, which is planning a £150m stock market flotation next year, is to buy MRC Business Information, which provides financial analysis and reports for the marine, energy and commodities market. MRC, which last year made sales of £4m, is believed to have a price tag of between £5m and £10m. L.L.P. owns 300 titles, but makes a fifth of its income from *Lloyd's List*.

#### Body Shop Hong Kong postpones float

Body Shop Hong Kong, the local franchise of Britain's Body Shop, the skincare group, is to postpone indefinitely its flotation on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange and its planned expansion into mainland China. Margaret Tanock, chairman of Body Shop Hong Kong, said the delay was due to a retail slump in the territory. The listing was expected to take place at the end of this year. However, Body Shop, which has 16 outlets in Hong Kong and Macau, will go ahead with plans to open six more shops in the next few months.

#### Cantab starts work on Cambridge facility

Cantab Pharmaceuticals, the UK biotechnology company, will begin construction today on a £10m, custom-built research and development facility on the Cambridge Science Park. The facility will be the fifth-largest in the park, almost doubling Cantab's presence from 33,000 sq ft to 62,000 sq ft. Trinity College, which is leasing the building to Cantab over 25 years, will contribute £1.5m towards the cost of equipment and benches.

#### Holmes Place gets in shape for market

Holmes Place, the London luxury fitness centre, is coming to the stock market via a placing this year valued at around £70m. The company, which is expected to raise around £15m of new money, runs a club at the Barbican Centre used by celebrities including Anthea Turner. Holmes Place made pre-tax profits of £2.7m on sales of £12.2m in the six months to 30 June.

#### ScottishPower to be listed in New York

ScottishPower will today become the first Scottish company to gain a listing on the New York stock market, in a drive by the multi-utility to increase its American shareholder base. Ian Robinson, ScottishPower chief executive, will walk on to the Wall Street Stock Exchange this afternoon, preceded by a traditional piper, and ring the bell at the start of trading. Around 5 per cent of the group's shares are currently held by US institutions, but it aims to significantly raise the figures. US utility companies trade on different ratings from their UK counterparts, paying lower dividends and carrying higher debt levels. Southern Electric, the only remaining independent regional electricity company, is also considering gaining a listing in New York.

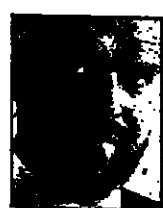
STOCK MARKETS									
FTSE 100									
	Close	Week's chg	Change%	1996/97 High	1996/97 Low	Yield%			
FTSE 100	4994.20	+176.7	+3.7	5086.80	4056.60	3.31			
FTSE 250	4881.00	+77.6	+1.7	4729.40	4386.20	3.54			
FTSE 350	2404.30	+76.5	+3.3	2438.00	2017.90	3.36			
FTSE SmallCap	2270.10	+87.0	+3.9	2374.20	2178.29	3.16			
FTSE All-Share	2348.39	+71.7	+3.1	2376.39	1989.78	3.34			
New York	7822.41	+199.99	+2.6	8299.31	5032.94	1.71			
Tokyo	18650.17	+420.8	+2.3	20681.07	17303.85	0.831			
Hong Kong	14563.55	+428.3	+3.0	16673.27	12055.17	3.161			
Frankfurt	4100.67	+194.6	+5.0	4438.93	2848.77	3.71			

Source: FT Information

INTEREST RATES									
UK interest rates									
Borrowing rates (p.a.)									
	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year	2 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year	15 Year
UK	7.00	7.50	8.00	8.50	9.00	9.50	10.00	10.50	11.00
US	5.50	6.00	6.50	7.00	7.50	8.00	8.50	9.00	9.50
Japan	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
Germany	3.16	3.56	4.00	4.50	5.00	5.50	6.00	6.50	7.00
Money Market Rates									
	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year	2 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year	15 Year
UK	7.00	7.50	8.00	8.50	9.00	9.50	10.00	10.50	11.00
US	5.50	6.00	6.50	7.00	7.50	8.00	8.50	9.00	9.50
Japan	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
Germany	3.16	3.56	4.00	4.50	5.00	5.50	6.00	6.50	7.00
Bond Yields									
	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year	2 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year	15 Year
UK	7.00	7.50	8.00	8.50	9.00	9.50	10.00	10.50	11.00
US	5.50	6.00	6.50	7.00	7.50	8.00	8.50	9.00	9.50
Japan	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
Germany	3.16	3.56	4.00	4.50	5.00	5.50	6.00	6.50	7.00
MAIN PRICE CHANGES									
	Price	Change	% Chg	Price	Change	% Chg	Price	Change	% Chg
Oil	380	38	11.1	Thistle Hotels	129	22.5	14.9		
RTG	768.5	70.5	9.2	MBSys	1480	110	6.9		
Laird Group	426	34.5	8.0	Wimpey (George)	124	9	6.8		

CURRENCIES									
£/\$									
	Close	Week's chg	Change%	1996/97 High	1996/97 Low	Yield%			
£/\$	1.5355	-0.030	-1.9574	1.5774	1.4821				
£/¥	1.5940	-0.050	-3.1576	1.6475	1.4923				
£/DM	2.6647	-0.040	-1.5032	2.7052	2.4907				
£/A\$	1.9271	-0.015	-0.7817	1.9426	1.8040				
£/R\$	100.2	-2.0	-2.0	102.2	98.1				
OTHER INDICATORS									
	Close	Week's chg	Change%	1996/97 High	1996/97 Low	Yield%			
Oil Brent \$	18.25	-0.04	-0.216	19.24	18.24	0.9			
Gold \$	322.15	-2.80	-0.865	325.00	319.00	0.9			
Gold £	203.18	-2.94	-1.442	206.12	198.00	0.9			
Brent \$	18.25	-0.04	-0.216	19.24	18.24	0.9			
Brent £	100.2	-2.0	-2.0	102.2	98.1	0.9			





GAVIN DAVIES

What about the impact on developed economies? Could this be so severe that it is in our own self-interest to bail out the worst impacted Asian economies? With the possible exception of Japan, the answer seems to be no.

## Why did the IMF step in to rescue Thailand?

Last weekend, the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas hosted its annual conference for central bankers, academics and private sector economists at Jackson Hole, Wyoming. This conference, held in a stunning if somewhat incongruous setting, has become one of the key events on the central banking calendar each year, not least because it always results in a collection of excellent practical papers by academics and official economists.

This year, the focus was on financial crises and how to handle them, with particular attention on the developing crisis in South East Asia. This column will address three linked questions that arise from this crisis. First, could it have been predicted? Second, what effect will it have on the rest of the world? And third, was the IMF right to lead a bail-out operation for Thailand?

The question of whether the crisis could have been predicted is of obvious importance to international investors, but it is also critical for policy-makers. From the point of view of the IMF, a predictable crisis is one that could potentially have been avoided by taking appropriate policy action at an early stage. So there are obvious lessons for the future, involving the possibility of more pro-active intervention by the IMF to achieve timely policy changes. And, if the crisis was predictable, there seems less case for mounting a bail-out operation in order to save the skins of private sector investors who continued to make imprudent investments despite clear warning signals.

Morris Goldstein of the Institute for

International Economics in Washington presented an excellent paper at Jackson Hole which claimed, in effect, that the Thailand crisis could have been predicted, using a set of economic indicators which had been developed from a systematic analysis of previous currency crises. The key indicators, according to Dr Goldstein, are: real GDP growth, the change in exports, the rise in the real effective exchange rate, the decline in equity prices, the rise in real interest rates, and the ratio of domestic money to international reserves. Each of these indicators was flashing at least a year before the Thai crisis exploded this summer. So why did both the market, and the IMF, fail to take corrective action early enough?

One cynical interpretation, expressed at Jackson Hole, is that accurate analysis was held back from the market because the main purveyors of such information – the global investment banks – deliberately chose to place an optimistic spin on the evidence in order to win financing business from the

countries concerned. From my vantage point as the chief economist of just such an organisation, this accusation does not ring true. Not only did the Asian economists of Goldman Sachs predict the onset of the crisis several months in advance, but they made this clear to clients the world over in written reports early in 1997.

Admittedly, this was a controversial conclusion at the time, but if by then it had been a consensus view, the crisis would already have happened. By the laws of chance, there will always be some commentators who can claim, in retrospect, that they were ahead of the pack. What this episode shows, though, is that Dr Goldstein is right to argue that there were plenty of publicly available warning signals well in advance of the crash. Certainly, more timely information on the true state of the central bank's reserves, and on the health of the banking sector, would have been highly valuable to investors – and the IMF is right to press for better information in future – but whether this would have prevented the crisis is a moot point.

A more likely explanation for the general failure to see the crisis coming is that markets, since time immemorial, have chosen to take advantage of the "easy" money available in fixed exchange rate systems until the very point at which they collapse. Thailand was no exception to this rule, since many investors, choosing to believe in the Thai government's obvious determination to maintain the currency peg, increased

their exposure to the baht as interest rates rose in the early days of the crisis. At times such as these, markets often appear to lose their ability to accurately assess risk against return. But this particular variant of a private sector financial "bubble", painful though it may be for the participants, does not seem sufficient to justify costly intervention by the IMF.

What about the impact on the developed economies? Could this be so severe that it is in our own self-interest to bail out the worst-impacted Asian economies? With the possible exception of Japan, the answer seems to be no. The table shows the impact on the developed economies of a huge economic shock in Asia – a shock which forces the Asian countries (Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines and Malaysia) to improve their trade deficits by 4 per cent of GDP in one year, and forces the rest of Asia to do the same by 2 per cent of GDP. This is about the most extreme shock which could be imagined, and is several times larger than anything which has happened so far. Yet even in these unlikely circumstances, the depressing impact on the US and the European Union would only be about a quarter per cent of GDP, not normally enough to raise a flicker of interest among economic forecasters. Only in Japan, where the GDP impact could be two or three times as large, and where there are also important banking sector exposures, is there a self-interested case for the bail-out.

Yet Japan in effect refused to lead the rescue operation for Thailand, and threatened not to help at all except under the auspices

of the IMF. This was understandable from a Japanese political point of view, and the bluff worked. The IMF stepped in, much more speedily than it had done in several earlier crises. The question is – why?

The IMF's explanation is that there is plenty of evidence of contagion from one currency crisis to similar crises in other countries which would otherwise have not suffered any problems at all. This contagion effect justifies collective action, since all countries have an interest in protecting themselves from the danger of such fall-out. But it is rather hard to claim that the major developed economies, which have contributed the lion's share of the financial assistance to Thailand, would be the main losers from such contagion, so this explanation is not watertight.

We are left, therefore, with the final explanation, which is that the world community has a moral duty to prevent the 60 million people of Thailand from suffering as a result of the policy mistakes of their government. This, too, was suggested at Jackson Hole. Yet this justification places the IMF action squarely in the realm of a global package of humanitarian aid. And, as the ever-sparky Jeffrey Sachs of Harvard insisted, there is absolutely no case for offering such a huge package of instant support for the relatively rich Thais, when the IMF has done so little for so long to help the truly impoverished countries of sub-Saharan Africa.

IMF and central bank officials left Jackson Hole still certain that they were right to help Thailand. Exactly why was not so clear.

## Performance-related pay fails to sideline unions

Barrie Clement

Despite the hopes of some "union-busting" human resources gurus, performance-related pay has failed to marginalise unions in British industry.

In a study of 128 organisations to be published next week, Industrial Relations Services found unions and collective bargaining were continuing to play a key role in businesses which had abandoned across-the-board wage increases as a means of rewarding their employees.

The research group found unions were "derecognised" in only four of the 244 employee groups covered. The findings undermine claims made by the Institute of Personnel Development which has questioned the need for collective bargaining where profit-related pay has been introduced.

Union leaders were taking comfort from the study yesterday as they gathered in Brighton for this week's annual TUC Congress.

Nearly two-thirds of the organisations covered – in public and private sectors – said the use of individualised or team-based pay had changed but not reduced the role of unions.

A further 23 per cent of employers said the role of unions had only been partially reduced, while just 14 per cent considered the union role had been significantly reduced.

In the great majority of cases unions still influenced such matters as the top and bottom of salary scales, minimum annual increases, the level of the overall pay budget and the market-related element of pay rewards. In many cases union negotiators were also involved in the

"nitty gritty" of pay reviews, helping to determine such factors as the distribution of pay awards to different categories of employee.

In a separate survey of 536 organisations from a range of sectors, the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Management found that 77 per cent of companies now had some form of appraisal system for their employees.

Around 24 per cent managed pay schemes where there was a direct link between remuneration and performance. A further 27 per cent took some account of performance appraisals, but included other factors. Nearly half the employers surveyed, however, said there was no direct link between performance appraisals and wages.

Tony Bolton, a senior consultant at the society, said a lot of mistakes could be made by managers carrying out appraisals. "No wonder people call it the 'annual reprisal interview'."

Separately, it emerged that Barclays Bank is facing a fresh threat of strikes in a long-running dispute over pay after unions decided to hold new ballots. Members of the Banking Insurance and Finance Union and UNIFI will vote on whether to walk out in protest at a new performance-related pay system which the unions claim will freeze the pay of 25,000 workers. A result is expected by the end of the month.

TRS employment trends 640, from Industrial Relations Services, 18-20 Highbury Place, London, N5 1QP.

Managing Best Practice 37, by the Industrial Society, Robert Hyde House, 48 Bryanston Square, London W1H 7LN.

## Sir Alistair tipped to be Bank of Scotland governor

Diane Coyle  
Economics Editor

The prominent Scottish businessman, Sir Alistair Grant, is to succeed Sir Bruce Patullo as governor of the Bank of Scotland, according to strong rumours at the weekend.

If confirmed, his appointment would make him one of the most prominent businessmen in Scotland after devolution. As chairman of giant brewer Scottish & Newcastle he employs 5,500 people north of the border.

The Bank of Scotland, which would make no comment on the weekend reports, is one of the UK's best-regarded financial institutions, whose profits climbed by £119m to £564m in the year to February. The note-issuing bank will become even more influential after devolution.

Yet, like the current governor, Sir Alistair is a staunch and high-profile opponent of a new Scottish parliament having tax-raising powers. The 60-year-old, who also recently stood down as



Sir Alistair Grant: Against the devolution White Paper

head of the Safeway supermarket group, was criticised last month by Scottish Secretary Donald Dewar for warning that S&N could switch investment to England if business rates were increased in Scotland.

His stand echoes widespread concern in the Scottish business community, however.

Today sees the launch of a campaign by the British Retail Consortium lobbying against the devolution White Paper's proposal for business rates in Scotland to vary from the rest of the UK.

The BRC has written to Mr Dewar, warning him that fears of a higher business rate in Scotland would discourage future job creation and investment by retailers.

Sir Alistair, who has sponsored the world premiere in Edinburgh of a new Sir Peter

Maxwell Davies composition on the Jacobite uprising, has been a staunch Conservative supporter. Before the election he said he would strongly back the Tories in Scotland, saying: "Some Tories need a kick up the bottom for their divisiveness and disloyalty."

However, this summer Scottish & Newcastle broke with the habit of 20 years by cancelling its £50,000-a-year donation to the Conservative Party.

"The board agreed it was inappropriate to make any donation to any political party," Sir Alistair said.

The Bank of Scotland's new governor is due to be named on or before the announcement of its interim results on 1 October. Sir Alistair has served as a non-executive director on the Bank of Scotland board for five years.

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# Tripping the light fantastic to the surface of the Sun

Charles Arthur  
Science Editor

Despite having a lousy record for accurately predicting the weather on Earth even a few days ahead, European and American scientists have set themselves a new goal: forecasting the weather on the Sun. There is a reason for their apparently obscure aim. After a year of careful observation, using the orbiting Soho (Solar and Heliospheric Observatory) spacecraft, they have discovered that the Sun's surface is a churning mass with its own "rivers" of superheated electrically charged gases, or plasma, flowing at a temperature of 5,800C.

The swirling movement of these streams causes sunspots - cooler areas (just 3,800C) on the surface, which show up as dark patches - and solar storms. And these affect the weather, and even communications, on Earth. Although the Sun's surface temperature seems unimagin-

bouncing off the atoms in their way as they rush outwards.

Scientists have calculated that it can take a single photon several years to reach the surface of the Sun. From there, however, it enjoys an untroubled journey outwards. The tiny proportion which reaches us takes just eight minutes to travel from the Sun's surface to the Earth, 93 million miles (149 kilometres) away.

Long-term variations in the Earth's temperature may be linked to sunspots, while solar storms, which can throw out flames of plasma millions of kilometres into space, can cause radio interference, damage telecommunications satellites and even knock out power stations.

The new data emerged from observations carried out jointly by the European Space Agency (ESA) and Nasa, the United States space agency. "We have detected motion similar to the weather patterns in the Earth's atmosphere," said Jesper Schou, of Stanford University, California.

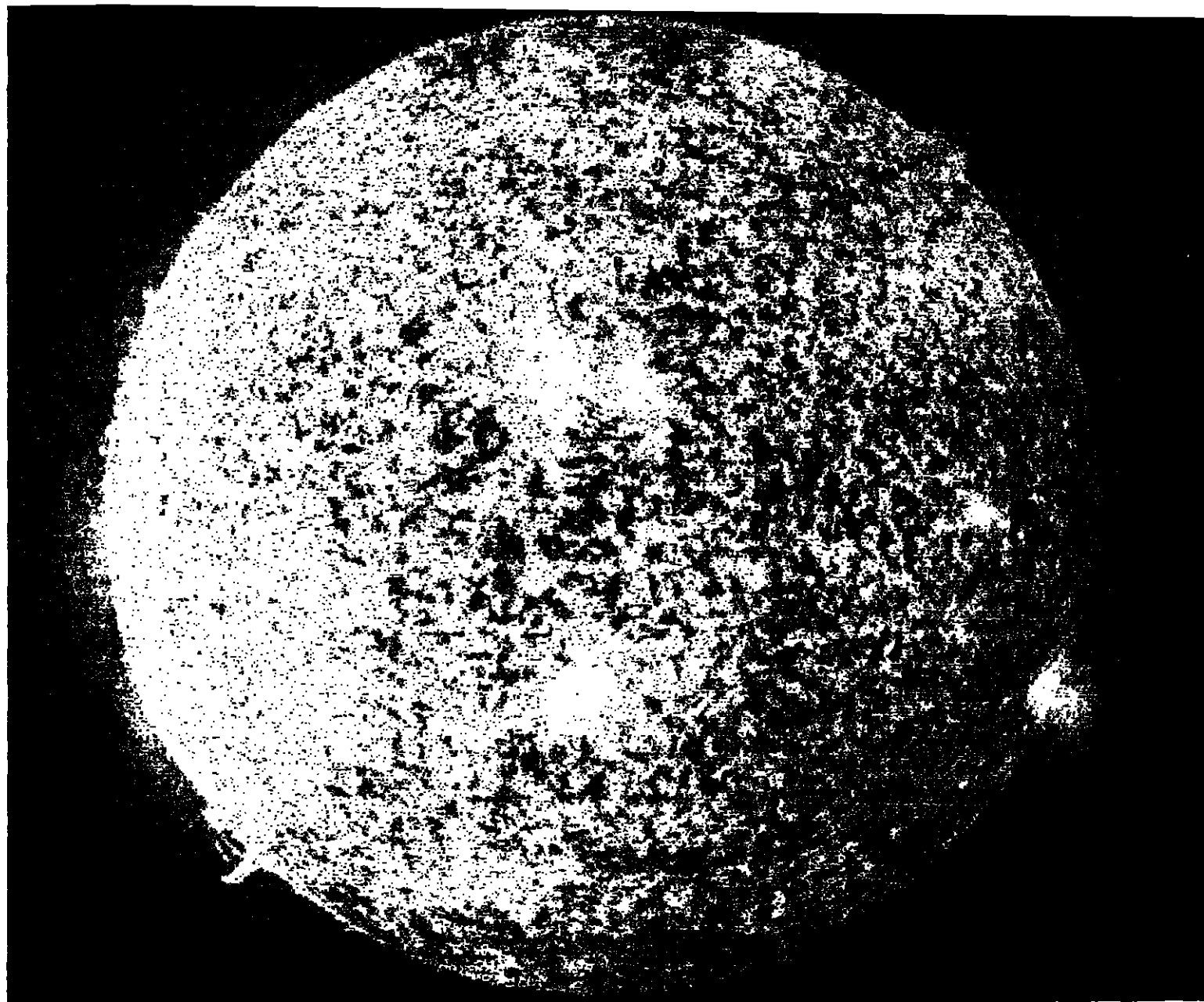
The joint European and US team also discovered that the surface of the Sun is slowly moving: the outer layer, to a depth of about 15,000 miles, is flowing at about 50 miles per hour from the Sun's equator to its poles. On that basis, it would take almost two years for any area of plasma to journey from the equator to the poles.

**'We can look inside the Sun as a doctor can look inside a pregnant woman with ultrasound'**

able, the temperature is hundreds of times greater at its core, where the energy that powers the star (and in turn, warms the Earth) is produced. There, the immense gravitational forces generated by the mass of the Sun crush together single protons, each one originally the nucleus of an interstellar hydrogen atom, to form a helium nucleus.

Surplus energy is thrown off and eventually reaches us as sunlight. Millions of tons of hydrogen are consumed every second in this process - although the Sun is expected to burn for another 5 billion years or so, being about halfway through its life.

But the light particles (or photons) generated in the fusion process do not stream directly from the heart of the Sun to its surface and then out into space. The core is so dense that the photons must take an atomic Ping-Pong ride to the surface,



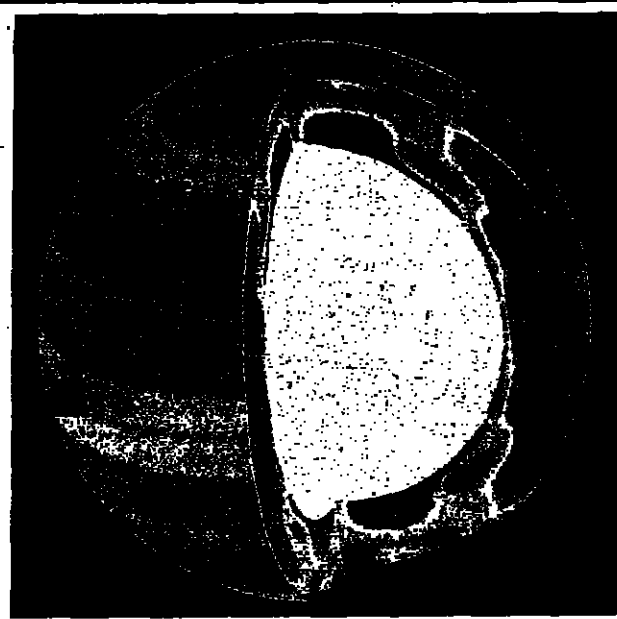
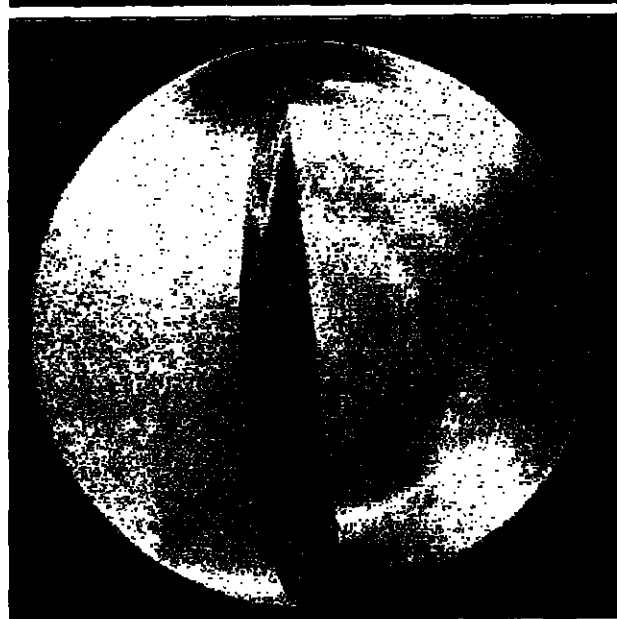
pushes out from the surface of the Sun, as recorded by Soho, the European/United States Solar and Heliospheric Observatory, 1 million miles from Earth.

Bottom left, solar rotation rate with depth: The (false) colours represent speed; red material is rotating the fastest and dark blue the slowest. The left side of the figure shows rotation speed at the surface of the Sun. Red material at the equator is moving approximately 3,000 miles per hour faster than the blue material at the poles. The cutaway reveals rotation speed inside the Sun. The large dark-red bank is a massive fast flow of hot, electrically charged gas called plasma, beneath the solar equator.

Bottom centre, variations in solar motion: This image represents the difference in speeds of areas on the surface and in the interior of the Sun. Red and yellow are faster than average, and blue is slower. The cutaway reveals speed variations in the interior. The red ovals embedded in the green areas at the poles are the newly discovered polar plasma "jet streams", each large enough to engulf two Earths.

Bottom right, polar flows: The flow lines, showing the surface flow from the equator to the poles, are set over an image of the rotation speed at the surface. The cutaway represents the observed polar flow 15,000 miles beneath the surface and a hypothetical return flow 120,000 miles under the surface.

Photographs: Nasa



Earth's inside this jetstream," Professor Schou said.

The belts also rub against slower-moving plasma inside the Sun. "That's where the sunspots form," said Professor Douglas Gough, of Cambridge University. The same processes could also underlie solar flares and storms. Last week a flare shot out of the Sun - although scientists say there is no risk to the Earth.

Professor Gough said the streams, which generate huge magnetic and electrical fields, create opposing forces which eventually must find an escape. "Think of them like elastic bands," he said. The bands are twisted and pulled by the motion: "then it slips. It either snaps, or it contracts and shoots out material like a slingshot".

The scientists compared the solar "rivers" to atmospheric currents on Earth. "We are just beginning to understand

how the Earth's atmosphere operates," Professor Gough said. "Now we are getting tremendous and interesting details from the Sun."

Professor DeForest said that knowing this could help scientists to predict sunspot activity. "We can predict where on the Sun these things arise."

He compared it to meteorology - which allows prediction of general weather patterns, but not of localised events. In the same way, the Soho findings will make it easier to predict trends, but it will not be possible to predict where an individual sunspot will arise - "just like it's not easy to predict where a thunderstorm will break out".

However, knowing the right area might add a few days to the warnings that are now given when a solar storm is coming. And that, in turn, could mean an easier time back on Earth - even if it is raining.

**THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD**

No. 1348 Monday 8 September By Fortis

26 Pearl of acceptable standard man pocketed (9)

27 Manage to tell Fole who's ahead of explorer (10)

**DOWN**

1 Chip supper arrived in bits (9)

2 Lake house that's inaccessible, we're told (4)

3 Manoeuvre motor, bearing right (8)

4 Points to a condition imposed by the Northern writer (5)

5 Coined a new word for Greek nymph (7)

6 Happy head of state is in uniform (10)

7 Leave after a time when one chooses (2,4)

12 United get in to equal score at last (10)

15 Be extremely angry when a nice sari is ruined (5,4)

16 Possibility of a number becoming voluntary (8)

18 Language of cliché is hard to follow (7)

20 Prince's sweetness doesn't ring true (6)

22 Cut down a pungent lavender plant (5)

24 Wading bird isn't within earshot (4)

**ACROSS**

1 About time foreign hotel accepted claim (10)

8 Flying down the football pitch? (2,3,4)

9 Offers to drop good US music producer (4)

10 Instrumental composition many find appropriate (6)

11 I note attitude towards particular case (8)

13 Fossil Vernon found is a

source of metal (6)

14 Resent move restricting European monarch (8)

17 Meaty slice of cooked Cape sole (8)

19 Cheap end-product's made of earthenware (6)

21 Quiet country area is home to reptile (8)

23 Exercise a great deal prior to amateur game (6)

25 Spineless male engaged in backchat (4)

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